

On Top Of The News

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Tuesday, October 13 2009

Aruba Airport Authority N.V. announces new service and capacity increase

AAA reports positive 3rd Quarter 2009 traffic results

ORANJESTAD - With the summer months comprising the 3rd Quarter period, airlines are indicating overall more passengers per flight as capacity and airfares were reduced. The industry remains very volatile and according to IATA, even though demand for air travel continues to improve, profitability remains ever distant. Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) 3rd quarter results are reflective of the overall industry reports as both commercial revenue generating passengers (RGP) and air service capacity have increased during the third quarter of 2009.

RGP figures for commercial passengers and flights were up by 2.8% and 1.8% respectively compared to the third quarter of 2009. The following graph illustrates the monthly performance for the third quarter of 2009 compared to 2008 for commercial traffic.

According to the International Air Transport Association (IATA) air fares have stabilized, but at profitless levels. Meanwhile cost pressures are mounting from reduced aircraft utilization and rising oil prices. The industry according to IATA is 'not out of the woods yet'. US airline capacity changes for Aruba during the third quarter of 2009 were most notable from Delta Airlines, USAirways and JetBlue Airways growing capacity compared to 2008 with 60.0%, 24.8% and 11.8% respectively. In addition, AirTran Airways announced weekly service to Aruba from Atlanta as of December 2009 and Orlando as of February 2010 complimenting air service from the United States to Aruba. With the announcement of Orlando, Aruba has obtained its 13th US gateway a terrific accomplishment for the destination.



As previously indicated booking patterns remain rather short term as consumers are price sensitive and continue to influence the performance of the main tourism market. Airlines have reduced capacity and airfares which creates more passengers on the aircraft but does not reduce the fixed airline costs. The following graph also reflects

how effective the various markets are in matching aircraft capacity with demand during the third quarter of 2009 compared to 2008.

'Traffic figures for the 3rd Quarter sound promising as each individual month showed signs of improvement' said Peter Steinmetz, Managing Director AAA. 'Retention of air service, the addition

of air service from AirTran Airways and the change of equipment by Copa Airlines are important indicators that our strategies continue to generating positive results. In addition, our marketing efforts have been recognized once again during The World Route Forum and are reflections of Aruba's strong and prominent presence in the world of Tourism and Aviation'. □

Curacao seek more information over missing Hogan



Curacao have appealed for information to help solve the case of the missing US vice consul James Hogan in a special television broadcast. The 49-year-old vice consul went missing on 24 September after he went out for a walk at about 11pm. His wife reported him missing the next morning.

Since then, some of his clothes - a pair of jeans, socks and shoes - neatly folded but covered with blood, was found on Baya Beach, many kilometres from his home. A large kitchen knife covered in blood was found nearby. Tests revealed the blood was that of Hogan's. His mobile telephone was also found later in the water.

In the TV broadcast, police asked the public for information

about events that night and general information on Hogan's social life as rumours circulating the island about his private life are contradictory. The rumours range from his visits to gay bars to him having a preference for Latin American women. Police are also asking viewers to identify the knife, which was an expensive brand. During a reconstruction of events that night, places and times were mentioned regarding the vice consul's possible movements. The police are especially keen to

get in touch with the driver of a white two-door BMW, although no reason was given as to why.

Few leads despite wide search. Antillean coastguard and US navy helicopters and underwater robots have been used to scour the whole island and the sea around it.

The water between Baya Beach and Spaans Water (an inland lake with an open passage to the sea) has been

dredged. Police had thought the vice consul's body might have been washed into the lake by the strong currents around the lesser Antillean island. Posters have been distributed and local residents have been questioned.

The FBI and US State Department have also involved in the search for the missing man. The Dutch Forensic Institute is also helping with the investigation. □

The police in Curacao want to know more about the events leading to US vice consul James Hogan's disappearance and general information on his social life.

WILLEMSTAD - Police in the Dutch Antilles island

 OIL	Price of a barrel of petroleum US\$ 73.27 <small>↑1.36</small>
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At the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino

Kara & D.J. celebrate love with toes-in-the-sand ceremony



PALM BEACH - Kara Toronto celebrated their love for one & Daniel "D.J." Nadeau another with a destination

wedding on the pristine white beaches of Aruba and the Marriott Resort. Rev. Geoffrey officiated the toes-in-the-sand sunset ceremony in front of more than 3 dozen family members and friends.

The bride's parents Ed & Ellen Toronto together with the groom's parent's Danny & Rosalie Nadeau announce the marriage of the children Kara and D.J. The bridal party consisted of the Maid of Honor Rana Toronto, the best man Shaun Green together with bridesmaids Lauren



Catalono, Nicole Catalono, Gina Didiacomo and the Groomsmen Kenny Andrade and Moleek Saxton.

The event was perfectly orchestrated by Wedding Coordinator Desiree Bikker and the events team of the Aruba Marriott Resort. After the ceremonies, the couple enjoyed a champagne toast, official cake cutting ceremony, cocktail reception on the terrace then a dinner and dance reception in the ballroom. Congratulations to Gina and D.J. from Aruba Today. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~





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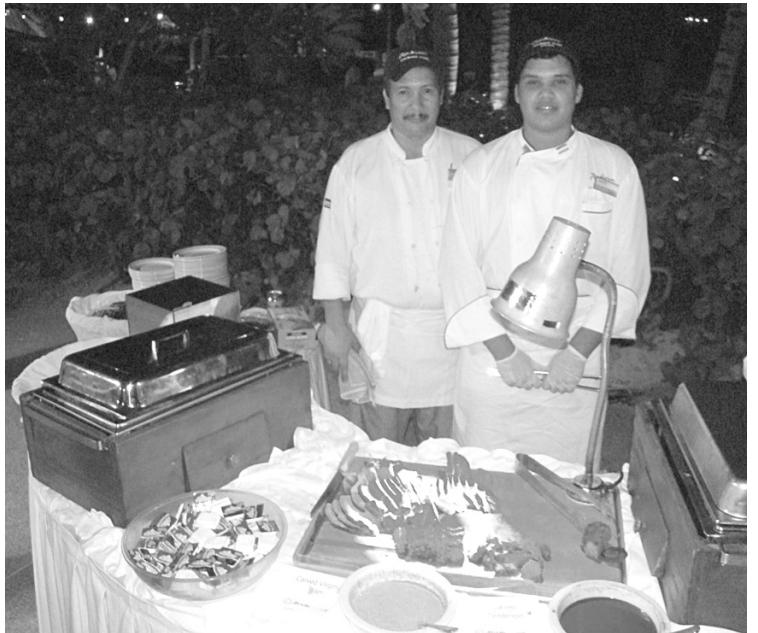
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Brandon Hall Wins Aruba POKER Classic



Poker pro Robert Mizrachi leading the pack for four days and making the final table holding the chip lead of the Ultimatebet 2009 Aruba Classic tournament in the

Caribbean, had to settle for a chopped second placing with winner Brandon Hall.

Hall, a 20-year-old from Littleton, Pennsylvania

collected a \$753 330 take-home following the elimination of Chase Steely in third place, which cleared the way for a Hall vs. Mizrachi heads up, but at this stage the two survivors from an original field of 474 hopefuls agreed to a chop.

The two players agreed that Mizrachi would take the lion's share of the chop due to his chip leading position, and that each player would put up \$30 000, the winner to add this amount to his agreed chop balance.

In a dominant position, Mizrachi must have been disheartened to watch his young opponent close the gap and then overtake him to win the tournament.

Earlier, Hall had been reluctant to end play on the fourth day as he had a flight to catch back to the States; he must therefore have been glad that tournament director Matt Savage persuaded

him to hang in, leading to a lucrative victory and a big dip into the event's \$2.3 million prize pool.

Hall faced some impressive opposition on the final table, which included Mizrachi in the lead, 2009 World Series of Poker double-bracelet holder Brock Parker and fellow WSOP 2009 bracelet winner Eric Baldwin - all with substantial chip stacks. Other players included Chase Steely, Jose Roberto Santos and Matt Ross.

With the table down to four players, a rather long delay occurred as the survivors tried to reach a four-way chop, but they were unable to agree and the action was resumed. Not long after that Baldwin exited, leaving the heads up decider between Steely, Hall and Mizrachi. Eventually Steely found himself out in third place after a clash with Mizrachi, deciding the Hall vs. Mizrachi heads up.



Brandon Hall

Once the heads up chop had been agreed, the action lasted for only a quarter of an hour, with Hall emerging victorious and taking the big money. Mizrachi had to be content with \$414 680.

Remarkably, the Aruba Classic was Hall's first live tournament final table, although he has played in seven major tourneys including the EPT German Open main event. His \$753 330 Aruba win massively extends his formerly \$32 266 career earnings record. □

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Across its 32 markets worldwide

Digicel Celebrates 10 Million Subscribers Landmark

ORANJESTAD - Digicel, the largest telecommunications provider in the Caribbean and recent entrant to the Central American and Pacific markets, is celebrating reaching the ten million subscriber landmark across its 32 markets worldwide, it was announced today.

Since launching in Jamaica in 2001, Digicel has expanded rapidly across the Caribbean, Central America and the Pacific by making mobile telecoms accessible to anyone, anywhere, anytime and by providing the best network, best service and best value to customers.

At the end of June 2009, Digicel recorded 7.2 million subscribers across its 24 markets in the Caribbean and El Salvador. In terms of the recently launched businesses in Honduras and Panama, these are well ahead of expectations with 1.4 million subscribers across the two markets -- while the six markets in the Pacific account for a further 1.4 million subscribers. The total of ten million subscribers equates to a compound annual growth rate of 40% over the last two years. Colm Delves, CEO of Digicel Group, comments, "We are delighted with our progress. Since our launch in Jamaica in 2001, we have grown to now span 32 markets worldwide and to serve over ten million customers. We have done this by ensuring that our commitment to provide the best network, best service and best value is evident in everything we do -- and the way in which we do it. Delighting our customers is, and always will be, our number one priority and we would like to thank them for their ongoing loyalty to Digicel."

ABOUT DIGICEL GROUP
After eight years of operation, Digicel has 8.6 million customers across its Caribbean and Central American markets and is renowned for competitive rates, unbeatable coverage, superior customer care, a wide variety of products and services and state-of-the-art handsets. By offering innovative wireless services and community support, Digicel has become a leading brand in the Caribbean and has placed the region at the cutting-edge of wireless communications -- the company is also a new entrant to the Central American and Pacific markets.

Digicel is incorporated in Bermuda and now has operations in 32 markets world-wide. Its Caribbean and Central American markets comprise Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Bermuda, Bonaire, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Curacao, Dominica, El Salvador, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Panama, St Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad

& Tobago and Turks & Caicos. The Caribbean company also has coverage in St. Martin and St. Barths. Digicel Pacific comprises Fiji, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu.

In total, across its 32 markets, Digicel has over ten million subscribers.

Digicel is the lead sponsor of Caribbean and Central American sports teams, including the West Indies Cricket Team and Special Olympics teams throughout the region. □



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*** Human Hints Daily ***

Grow Through Challenge

Personal challenge is a necessary part of life, for without it we don't grow. Although we don't like to admit it, overcoming opposition makes us stronger. The view doesn't change from the plateau, but as we climb, our vision becomes ever more expansive.

Humans thrive on challenge, and we can grow very quickly when we are forced to. We grow in proportion to the size of the challenge, and our most desperate moments offer the opportunities for our greatest expansion. Crisis is the most powerful growth accelerator known to Human Kind. If we refuse to change, desperation can force us to adapt.

Our spirit-self oversees Overcoming a challenge

our physical lives and arranges challenges for us to overcome, based what we can handle and what we agreed to learn when we entered a body. We will never be faced with opposition that we cannot overcome, for then we would be defeating ourselves. You have the ability to overcome any challenge you face, because you agreed to it ahead of time. If there is a problem, you possess the means to overcome it.

Don't concern yourself with the details of HOW you will overcome the challenge. Just know that you agreed to only challenges that you can overcome. If something is too much for you, you will not encounter it.

begins and ends with you. Everyone arranges different challenges for themselves, and everyone handles them differently. As long as you have a clear goal and follow a Dynamic Action Plan to reach it, you are on your way.

Maintaining positive thoughts and emotions will turbo charge your efforts. You will attempt to sabotage yourself at every turn. Be wise enough to see your internal obstacles and be courageous enough to change your self-defeating thoughts and emotions.

Imagine that you have overcome your challenge, and know that your physical life must reflect the victory in your mind. It probably won't happen instantly. We must be patient with the time delay in three dimensional manifestation. Focused intent and action will collapse the time delay.

Like it or not, Humans need challenge in order to grow. Challenges are always opportunities to expand ourselves, and we always have the means to rise to the challenge. We always possess the ability and resources necessary to release whatever obstacle stands before us. We arrange our own challenges because we know they will teach us what we need to learn, and we know that we are capable of overcoming them.

Often, the purpose of the challenge is not for us to know until after we overcome it, but it always has to do with personal growth. The challenges we face today prepare us for tomorrow.

Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive

this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger
Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought.

HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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Experience Papillon's gripping story! Introducing a catching special for the early Birds

PALM BEACH – Henri Charrière, one of the world's most famous prisoners, would surely have had the time of his life at Papillon Restaurant in The Village, across from the Radisson Resort. Nicknamed Papillon because of the butterfly tattoo on his chest, the Frenchman was the first convict to escape from Devil's Island, something that nobody had ever done before. Charrière's thrilling, gripping...

auto-biography has been the concept behind Papillon Restaurant. The décor, the decorations and especially the restrooms wink at the thirteen terrible years Papillon spent in prison in French Guyana. Papillon restaurant's menu reflects the Frenchman's arduous journey to freedom: classic French dishes have been dusted with daring Caribbean flair and are a culinary journey for your taste buds. The spacious outside terrace is perfect for casual fine dining; the iron bars, flecks of rust and stains on the walls make one very glad not to be in Papillon's shoes in the 1940's! Charrière would undoubtedly have loved 'his' place on Aruba: this is luxury living for anyone!

Early Bird

Papillon Restaurant offers a daily Early Bird special. A delicious 3-course meal with a glass of house wine for just \$29.75 per person between 5pm and 7pm

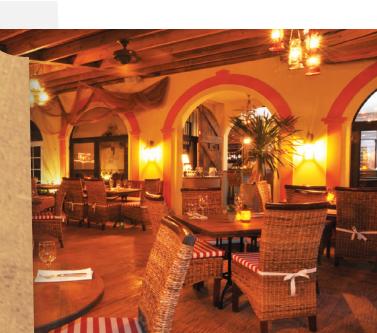
Opening hours

Papillon's opening hours are from 5 pm until midnight. The restaurant's daily specials will be explained by the staff. For reservations, please call 586 5400 or go to www.papillonaruba.com.

Papillon Restaurant is located in The Village, just across from the Radisson Resort.

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Renaissance Market Place with a Fresh New Vibe of

Amazing Nightlife Ambiance for Tourists and Locals!



ORANJESTAD - Renaissance Market Place has a new and extremely fresh vibe of nightlife entertainment and ambiance. If you haven't noticed yet, Renaissance

Market Place is the Place to be when it comes to Nightlife entertainment during the week and on the weekends, boasting three of the Best Social Clubs/ Lounges which come to life at



night with a lot of ambiance on One Strip, the new Renaissance Strip. During The weekends

you can dance the night away with live bands playing for all the "bailadores" (dancers) at



Grand Café Tropical, which offers exceptional service, live music and a very lively dance floor. Also, further down the strip you'll find NEXTDOOR Martini & Lounge where the nice and gorgeous people of Aruba enjoy of the Best House/Dance/Techno DJ's on the Island. And it goes without mention that Nextdoor also caters to its guests, with simply the best Martini's on this Island, and a very comfortable outdoor lounge seating that'll make you stay there till 3:00am. And very recently the Renaissance

strip got its latest addition, which was City Lounge better known as CILO. Cilo has introduced Aruba to a complete new concept of Lounge dining and quaint-nightlife. The ultimate design of the place in the Renaissance Marketplace heralds a new era on Aruba, the lounging era, and it seems Aruba loves it. Lounging is a way of life, and CILO is the place to do it, coupled with amazing Lounge DJ's a premium bar, and courteous bartenders. With all this, Renaissance Marketplace is getting ready to dazzle Aruba



with a magnificent and of October. By turning the halloween Renaissance Marketplace in celebration this coming 30th a giant NightClub, with 6



areas, 4 Live Bands, 5 DJ's and of course Kids Area as well, Renaissance aims to change the face of Halloween celebration ion Aruba, by making it a complete family event. Check Facebook.com for more information about Renaissance Marketplace. □



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PALM BEACH - Red Sail Sports' catamaran will take you on an unforgettable journey: the Mexican Dinner Sail. Your trip includes a Live Mariachi Band, Mexican Food and an open bar with Tequila, Coronitas and Margaritas. The Mexican Party Sails on Friday from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Aruba's trade winds provide the ideal conditions for sailing aboard Red Sail Sports' top quality, luxurious catamarans.



Set sail and join Red Sail Sports Half Day Luncheon Snorkel Sail or the romantic Sunset Sail. Red Sail Sports also offers a Dinner Sail which combines a sail along Aruba's scenic coastline and a spectacular view of the sunset with a tantalizing buffet catered by award-winning chefs. If you want to discover Aruba's underwater world, be sure to get in touch with Red Sail Sports. Learn to dive in one

day with the Discover Scuba Dive Course, get PADI certified or join us on our daily one and two tank dives. Red Sail Sports is Aruba's leading dive and watersports operator. Activity desks are located at the Hyatt Regency, Marriott Resorts and on Renaissance Island. To make reservations call 586-1603 or go to www.redsail-aruba.com. Be sure to visit one of Red Sail Sports' stores for the latest in swimwear, beach essentials, T-shirts and souvenirs.

Must be an Alhambra Advantage member. All programs and promotions are subject to change or cancellation without notice.

Sunset Grille, a prime Steakhouse offering Spa Cuisine



Palm Beach -- The Sunset Grille at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa needs no introduction. The award winning American steakhouse with its chic, cosmopolitan atmosphere headlines Prime Beef, the highest grade U.S.D.A -- only 2% of all beef is graded prime, required to age a minimum of 4 weeks. While steaks and chops make up the heart of the menu, the resort's Restaurant Chef Maarten Smeets innovated

unparalleled appetizers and extraordinary desserts, which helped the Sunset Grille achieve the Triple AAA's elite four-diamond status -- a rare feat for steakhouses. Sunset Grille well-known as the number one steakhouse in Aruba offers also spa cuisine, for the health conscious visitors, featuring appetizers, salads and a wide array of seafood selections. The spa cuisine dishes are balanced by enhancing

flavors with citrus, spice and herbs and taste is elevated by marinating, smoking and grilling, Smeets explains.

"We now use many more herbs, vegetables, grains and fibers," he adds, "all designed to sustain a healthier life style; and we stay away from saturated fats and refined sugars, as well as use salt sparingly," he informs.

"The Sunset Grille kitchen," Smeets reveals, "uses no trans fats, and our guests," he banters, "stay healthy, wealthy and wise with our new and exciting spa cuisine."

Among the patrons favorite dishes are, the Sunset Grille's famous Chop House Martini Salad, "Shaken not Stirred;" the lobster bisque with a pastry crust, the various cuts of prime beef, the popular Rack of Lamb, Stuffed Quail and the delicious Veal Oscar. The spa cuisine features items such as Tuna Tataki, the Spinach Salad, Chilean Seabass, grilled Swordfish and the Asian style Salmon



to cut corners, especially when it comes to buying, aging and cutting meat. No wonder the readers of Caribbean Travel & Life named it the top restaurant in the Caribbean. □



and Scallops served with the popular Soba Noodles.

The Sunset Grille always endeavors to exceed guests' expectations by purchasing the very best products available and preparing them in accordance with a combination of "tried and true" as well as cutting edge contemporary methods, Smeets explains.

Simply put, the Sunset Grille culinary team buys the best products, and cooks them the best way they know, refusing

Life's a Beach at the Juggling Fish

Palm Beach -- The Juggling Fish at Playa Linda Beach Resort is designed to stimulate your shopping instincts, as the beautiful store is hard to resist. What you'll find on the oceanfront boardwalk is absolutely gorgeous: hand picked gifts, souvenirs, beach

and resort wear, it's all on display a few steps from the water.

The tastefully arranged store is signature Boston-born Jodi Tobman, also the owner of the brand-new Lazy Lizard, in the South Beach Centre. You will find a great selection of

kid gifts here. In fact an entire inner section is dedicated to gifts with a tropical appeal for babies and toddlers, among them whimsical plush stuffed iguanas, parrots and seahorses. Moreover, a bonanza of fridge magnets, hand-made silver jewelry, batik beach



wraps, throws and hats also awaits you.

Gift hunters will be pleased with the array of scented candles and candleholders. The store offers convenient barefoot browsing possibilities and is located within a short walking distance from the Hyatt Regency and the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort. The Juggling Fish at Playa Linda fits nicely into that resort's "Life's a Beach" philosophy. Open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and on Sunday, when the rest of the island is at a standstill, the helpful staff at the Juggling Fish Playa

Linda beach Resort is eager to serve you with a smile from 9 a.m. till 6 p.m. Tel.: +297 586 4999. Email: orders@salamanderholdings.com □



Sarah: Country status not about 'bragging rights' or 'individuals'

PHILIPSBURG--Achieving Country Status is not about gaining "bragging rights" or about individuals, but about St. Maarten and protecting the population, former constitutional affairs commissioner Democratic Party leader Sarah Wescot-Williams said Saturday evening, in what was referred to as a "national address."

"While we are fighting about country and who brought it home, the country is crying out for leadership, the country is crying out for help against the escalating crime, our people want meaningful jobs, our banking system is nervous, investors are cautious, our court system [is] awaiting decisions," she said in the address simulcast on several radio stations and aired on a television station on Saturday evening, exactly one year before the date St. Maarten is scheduled to receive its new status.

"If it's only about the credit,

the bragging rights and no content, no conviction, then I say to [Leader of Government] William [Marlin] and [Commissioner] Theo [Heyliger], have it.

"This country thing is not about individuals. It can't be. It's not a fad, here today, gone tomorrow. It's about a nation and every nation is special in its own right. It is what makes the nation that is so special," she said in her 15-minute broadcast.

She stressed that St. Maarten should focus on the responsibilities it will assume and the issues it will be able to address when the new status is achieved.

"These are the discussions we should be preparing ourselves for, because when it comes around and we rejoice 'free at last,' realise that that freedom comes with a price - a price of responsibility and accountability. No longer can we take credit and shift the blame conveniently. It's going

to be we and we. The 10-10-10 agreement establishes guarantees, but nobody can make these work but ourselves," she said.

"If we don't think these things are important for our society, why even go through the motions? So while it is good that others within the Kingdom want to make sure that we've got what it takes, we should feel it. We should feel that we've got what it takes. And this is the one thing no one can legislate for us, and no one can guarantee for us," she said.

She said she was convinced St. Maarten was "up to the task" of achieving its new constitutional change on 10-10-10, which date was set recently. St. Maarten had worked "diligently" and "tirelessly" towards country status on three different levels

for nine years, she said.

The DP leader noted St. Maarten's state of readiness would be determined by the character of its people.

She said the new status meant that St. Maarteners would have the opportunity, when they went to the polls, to elect persons to represent them in areas of taxes, pension, health, education, immigration, employment, fight against crime and currency, among others.

Calling the January 2010 election "a necessary evil,"

she said it would be a wrong beginning to fight about the country and not for the country.

She said as long as there was an Antilles, the interest of the population would need to be protected and St. Maarten needed to participate in the

upcoming Central Government elections.

"Who will you send to Parliament? Who deserves your trust?" she asked.

"Our greatest challenge at this time is not one of meeting deadlines, or securing on paper the guarantees necessary for a strong country. It is about the conviction that you can still find persons willing to serve you selflessly, and for whom it's not about the power that comes with country, but about the people who make up the country.

"The question remains in essence: who is putting country above self?" she said in her address, simulcast on 101.1FM, 101.5FM, 91.1FM, 105.5FM, 98.1FM and 1300AM and aired on St. Maarten Cable TV Channel 15 at 8:00pm.

Heyliger expects 20 per cent increase in cruise passengers

POINTE BLANCHE--St. Maarten expects to receive more than 1.5 million cruise passengers during the 2010-2011 cruise season as a result of a change in the marketing approach of the Port of St. Maarten.

Harbour Affairs Commissioner Theo Heyliger, recently back from a direct marketing trip to meet with cruise line executives and itinerary planners, said the new efforts were expected to result in a 20 per cent increase in cruise numbers for the island. The Port of St. Maarten delegation, headed by Commissioner Heyliger, also included Cruise Manager Nzinga Lake and Harbour Group of Companies CEO Mark Mingo. They visited Princess Cruise Line, Holland America Line and Carnival Cruise Lines.

Princess Cruise Line will increase calls to 50 in 2010, compared with 32 in 2009, and will continue with 50 calls in 2011. Holland America Line (HAL) will increase its number of visits in 2010 to 28 and this number will jump to 35 in 2011. HAL will have made 23 calls in 2009 by year end.

Port calls by Carnival Cruise Lines will be around 95 in 2009, and this will jump to 112 in 2010, "which means that there will be a vessel year-round and more calls during the off-season, which is very important for the business community on the island, especially those in Philipsburg," Heyliger added.

Mingo said cruise executives were looking at ways and means to increase business in the current global recession and relied mainly on onboard surveys and market feedback when determining what cruise destinations to add to their itineraries. He said the recent meetings with cruise executives, described as the "personal executive direct approach" and spearheaded by Heyliger's direct marketing focus, had been necessary to provide information about the latest developments on port expansion and overall activity on the island, including infrastructural improvements and future plans. □

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BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Stocks pare gains; Higher crude boosts energy



Traders gather at the Bank of America kiosk on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange September 24, 2009, for the initial public offering (IPO) of Artio Global Investors Inc.

REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

**By SARA LEPRO,
AP Business Writer**
NEW YORK — Stocks gave up early gains and turned narrowly mixed at the start of a busy week of earnings. The Dow Jones industrials reached a new trading high for the year, edging closer to 10,000. Major market indicators were mixed in afternoon trading Monday, with the Dow marginally lower after hitting a 2009 high of 9,931. That was just 69 points away from 10,000, a level not seen in a year.

A weaker dollar and a spike in oil prices above \$73 drove energy and materials prices higher, but weakness in technology and industrial shares held the market back. Stocks got an early boost from a better-than-expected profit report from Dutch company Royal Philips Electronics. That sent Britain's leading stock indicator to its highest level in a year.

Trading was light as much of the country observed the Columbus Day holiday. No major economic reports were due and government bond markets were closed.

Investors looked ahead to the flurry of earnings reports due this week from key companies including Intel Corp., Johnson & Johnson, IBM Corp. and General Electric Co. A

number of top U.S. banks, including JPMorgan Chase & Co., Goldman Sachs Group Inc., Citigroup Inc. and Bank of America Corp. will issue reports as well.

At banks, investors are hoping to see signs that consumer loan defaults, including mortgages, are starting to level off, and will be looking for any potential trouble with commercial real estate loans. Overall, the market wants to see evidence that an economic recovery is under way.

The Dow fell 3.25, or 0.03 percent, to 9,861.69 in afternoon trading. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 1.95, or 0.2 percent, to 1,073.44, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 7.33, or 0.3 percent, to 2,131.95.

Analysts said the gains in stocks Monday show traders are optimistic about the coming reports, especially after aluminum maker Alcoa Inc. — the first of the 30 companies that make up the Dow to report earnings — said last week that it turned a profit for the first time in nine months. The news helped lift the Dow to its highest level in a year, giving the index a 4 percent gain for the week, its best weekly performance since July.

"There is some key stuff coming and the market has

anticipated that it's going to be good," said John Wilson, chief technical strategist at Morgan Keegan.

Nearly two stocks rose for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to a light 617 million shares.

The dollar mostly fell against other major currencies, helping to drive commodity prices higher. A weak dollar makes commodities more attractive to foreign investors. Gold was up about \$9 at \$1,058 an ounce, while oil prices added \$1.46 to \$73.23 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The dollar has fallen steadily over the past few months, as investors, more upbeat on the economy, take money out of traditional safe-haven assets and put it to work in stocks. The ICE Futures U.S. dollar index, which tracks the dollar against other major currencies, is down 14 percent since early March. The S&P 500 index is up 58.4 percent since then. Better-than-expected first-quarter results from banks set off the stock market's rally seven months ago, and even stronger second-quarter results helped fortify the rally in July.

Analysts say companies' earnings reports will determine where the market heads next. If results exceed expectations and show companies are making money through sales and not just cost cutting, stocks could continue their push higher.

"There's still room here for equities to move up on the back of better-than-expected results," said Craig Peckham, an analyst at Jefferies & Co. "I don't think that positive surprises are fully priced in." Still, disappointing earnings could easily upset investors who are looking for reassurance that the economy is growing and lead them to sell stocks. □

Philips third quarter net profit triples to \$256M

By TOBY STERLING,
AP Business Writer

AMSTERDAM - Royal Philips Electronics NV reported net profit of euro174 million (\$256 million) for the third quarter on Monday, three times the depressed levels of a year ago, due to cost-cutting measures.

In the same period in 2008, the world's largest lighting manufacturer had reported profits of euro57 million, including around euro80 million in net restructuring and impairment charges.

Despite the increase in profit, the company said sales fell 11 percent to euro5.62 billion in the third quarter of 2009, as demand continued to lag for consumer electronics, high-end health care equipment and many kinds of lights, notably those used in the automobile industry.

Philips added it had not seen "structural recovery in the majority of our end-markets."

In a statement, the company's chief executive said "underlying" margins — a nonstandard term — were "among the highest in recent years" at 6.8 percent of sales.

"Most businesses across the company saw further improvement in both comparable sales and underlying earnings compared to the previous quarter," Gerard Kleisterlee said.

Analysts said the results beat expectations and shares rose 7.7 percent to euro18.35 in Amsterdam.

"Margins were better than expected all across the board," said analyst Eric de Graaf of Petercam Securities, who repeated an Add advice on shares.

Though sales were down from a year ago, they were flat from the previous quarter and "the first rays of light are becoming visible," De Graaf wrote in a note on the earnings.

He praised the company for cutting costs and maintaining a strong financial position: net debt is euro621 million, down by a billion from a year ago and easily manageable for a company Philips' size.

At Philips' lighting division, sales were down 13 percent to euro1.65 billion and operating profit dropped by 29 percent to euro40 million. The company is expanding its offerings of energy-efficient LED lights as the technology enters the mainstream.

Philips also said it is opening chains of Philips-branded lighting stores in China and India.

In health care, where Philips competes with GE and Siemens, the company said it faced reduced demand for imaging and patient monitoring systems. Stripping out the impact of acquisitions, sales fell 4 percent and operating profit fell 15 percent to euro110 million.

Philips said that uncertainty around U.S. health care reform was hurting orders, which were down 7 percent.

In consumer electronics, sales fell 20 percent to euro1.82 billion, continuing a decade-long slide. However, operating profit more than doubled to euro126 million as Philips discontinued unprofitable television lines.

Once the largest maker of consumer electronics in Europe, Philips has instead been focusing on fewer products with better margins. □

HEALTH Aruba TODAY

Swine flu and kids: Heed warning signs, MDs say

By LINDSEY TANNER,
AP Medical Writer

Lindsey Tanner, AP Medical Writer – 2 mins ago CHICAGO — Max Gomez was a bright-eyed 5-year-old happy to have just started kindergarten when he developed sniffles and a fever. His mother figured it was only a cold. Three days later, the Antioch, Tenn., boy was dead, apparently from swine flu. At least 76 American children have died from the new virus, and doctors are urging parents to watch for warning signs that the flu has become life-threatening.

Ruth Gomez says Max developed dangerous symptoms — bluish fingers and extreme fatigue after seeming to get better — just one day before he died. She took him to the doctor, but it was too late. "We were in shock," Gomez said softly, still trying to wrap her mind around her little boy's Aug. 31 death. "There are so many unanswered questions. What happened?"

It's a question on other parents' minds, too: How can they protect their kids from swine flu until the vaccine is widely available?

Swine flu has probably infected hundreds of thousands of youngsters nationwide, but deaths among children are rare. Health officials are keeping track of children's flu deaths, but they say it's impossible to count all flu cases. So they don't know what percentage of children's infections are fatal. Many experts say the H1N1 virus does not appear to be more dangerous than other flu strains, but kids have been catching it more easily than seasonal flu.

Last week alone, there were 19 new reports of children who died, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And the 76 swine flu fatalities since April compare with 68 pediatric deaths from seasonal flu since September 2008.

Because kids seem so vulnerable to it, "every medical epidemiologist in the country" is tracking how it affects them, said Dr. Susan Gerber, an associate medical officer for the public health department in Cook County, Ill.

Most children will recover, but "it's still very concerning and needs to be watched very closely" Gerber said.

Dr. Kenneth Alexander, the University of Chicago's pediatric infectious disease chief, said there are common signs to indicate when both kinds of flu turn dangerous.

Flu viruses can damage cilia, the hair-like fibers lining the respiratory tract that move bacteria and mucus "where we can cough them out" of the lungs, he explained.

That can make people susceptible to pneumonia and other bacterial infections — a scenario blamed for many flu deaths in otherwise healthy children and adults, he said. In these cases, flu patients often appear to get better, but then fever and a cough return.

Authorities urge parents to seek immediate help if emergency warning signs develop. In children, these are:

- Fast or troubled breathing.
- Bluish skin color.
- Lack of thirst.
- Failure to wake up easily or interact.
- Irritability so that the child does not want to be held.
- Improvement of symptoms, then a return to fever and worse cough.
- Fever with a rash.

Parents should also seek medical help if flu symptoms develop in children most vulnerable to flu complications: those younger than 5 or with high-risk conditions, including asthma and other lung problems; cerebral palsy, epilepsy and other neurological diseases; heart, kidney or liver problems; and diabetes.

A recent report from the CDC found that one-third of pediatric

deaths from the new H1N1 virus were in children like Max, with no known underlying condition that would put them at risk.

In the past couple of weeks, news reports have tallied the deaths of children with no known health problems, including three in New Mexico, a second-grader in Dalton, Ga., and a Baltimore eighth-grader. "People are pretty concerned, and I think they should be," said Harvin Bullock, coroner in Sumter County, S.C., where 11-year-old Ashlie Pipkin died three weeks ago, two days after developing symptoms.

Authorities are walking a fine line between making sure parents are vigilant without raising undue alarm.

Commenting on the recent deaths in his state, New Mexico's health chief, Dr. Alfredo Vigil, told residents not to panic, but to take swine flu seriously.

That means kids should get vaccinations for both ordinary flu and swine flu when the vaccine is available, and stay home from school if they are sick. Parents should stress hand-washing and covering coughs. Mild cases should be treated at home with rest and plenty of fluids, but parents should call their doctor if more serious symptoms develop.

"We definitely don't want to suggest to someone who has a very sick child that that child should be at home. But at the same time, we don't want lots of children with mild illness showing up" in emergency rooms or doctors' offices, keeping doctors from treating sicker patients, said Dr. Michael Landen, New Mexico's deputy state epidemiologist.

He said it's a tough message for health officials to explain, and is "very challenging for parents to get this right."

Alexander, the Chicago doctor, said he always tells parents, "Trust your instincts." Then, if it goes beyond the typical flu experience, seek help, he said.



Ruth Gomez holds a photo of her son, Max, 5, in her Nashville, Tenn. home Oct. 8, 2009. The picture was signed by his kindergarten classmates after he died of swine flu Aug. 31.

(AP Photo/Mark Humphrey)

In rare cases, swine flu symptoms turn from bad to worse so quickly that by the time of medical attention, it was too late. That can occur with seasonal flu, too, Landen said.

Ruth Gomez says that's what happened with her son. Test results are still pending, and swine flu has not been ruled the official cause of death, but Gomez, who once worked as a medical assistant, says doctors found nothing else.

She plans to get swine flu shots for Max's two younger sisters, and she said other parents need to be aware of the risks. "Our lives have been turned around," she said. "Every day we miss him."

Vanessa LaGrange of Albuquerque said she's gotten the message. The recent deaths in her state mean she hopes to get all flu shots, including H1N1 vaccinations, for herself and her two children. She has

skipped flu shots in the past because her family is generally pretty healthy.

LaGrange said she kept her 6-year-old daughter home from school one day last week with a cough and sore throat, and that even her little girl is concerned.

"She did ask me outright if she had the swine flu," LaGrange said. She said her daughter has improved and probably did not have the flu.

In Atlanta, Kristen Chase sent her daughter off to kindergarten this year and is trying to avoid worrying, "but it's hard not to."

Even though swine flu hasn't hit her school yet, Chase puts sanitized hand wipes in her little girl's lunch box every day and tells her, "Wipe your hands off before you eat your lunch." If any of her three kids show signs of flu, Chase said she plans to "err on the side of caution" and call the doctor. □

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Why Obama Should Not Have Received the Peace Prize -- Yet

Robert Reich

President Obama's only real diplomatic accomplishment so far has been to change the direction and tone of American foreign policy from unilateral bullying to multilateral listening and cooperating. That's important, to be sure, but not nearly enough. The Prize is really more of a Booby Prize for Obama's predecessor. Had the world not suffered eight years of George W. Bush, Obama would not be receiving the Prize. He's prizeworthy and praiseworthy only by comparison.

I'd rather Obama had won it after Congress agreed to substantial cuts in greenhouse gases comparable to what Europe is proposing, after he brought Palestinians and Israelis together to accept a two-state solution, after he got the United States out of Afghanistan and reduced the nuclear arm's threat between Pakistan and India, or after he was well on the way to eliminating the world's stockpile of nuclear weapons. Any one of these would have been worthy of global praise. Perhaps the Nobel committee can give him half the prize now and withhold the other half until he accomplishes one or more of these crucial missions.

Giving the Peace Prize to the President before any of these goals has been attained only underscores the paradox of Obama at this early stage of his presidency. He has demonstrated mastery in both delivering powerful rhetoric and providing the nation and the world with fresh and important ways of understanding current challenges. But he has not yet delivered. To the contrary, he often seems to hold back from the fight -- temporizing, delaying, or compromising so much that the rhetoric and insight he offers seem strangely disconnected from what he actually does. Yet there's time. He may yet prove to be one of the best presidents this nation has ever had -- worthy not only of the Peace Prize but of every global accolade he could possibly summon. Just not yet. □

Next Nobel Peace Prize: Turkey and Armenia?

the Monitor's Editorial Board

Will the winners of the next Nobel Peace Prize be the leaders of adversaries Turkey and Armenia?

It's not every day that two neighboring but not neighborly countries agree to overcome a century of deep hostility, especially states that sit at one of the world's most strategic -- and volatile -- crossroads.

In Zurich, diplomats from both countries -- one a Christian nation and the other Muslim -- signed an historic agreement Oct. 10 to normalize relations and open their border. Included was a provision for a historical commission to look at the deeply divisive issue of up to 1.5 million Armenians killed during the breakup of the Ottoman Empire.

Impoverished Armenia, the tiniest of the former Soviet countries, hugs the southern tip of the tinderbox Caucasus region that lies between the Caspian and Black seas. It shares a border to the north with Georgia -- invaded by Russia in 2008 -- and to the west with Turkey.

Turkey, a member of NATO, seeks to become an oil-and-gas corridor connecting energy-rich Russia and the Caspian with Europe and the Middle East. As part of this goal, it is pursuing an ambitious policy of "zero problems" on its borders.

Regional stability could flow, and more oil and gas, too, if the parliaments of Turkey and Armenia ratify the agreement.

Ratification is iffy, however, considering the gaping historical rift that has separated these two neighbors all these years. Armenians call the deaths of their ancestors at the end of World War I a genocide. Turkey says it was a tragic result of war.

Another impediment: the "frozen conflict" of Nagorno-Karabakh, a separatist Armenian enclave in nearby Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan has put considerable pressure on its friend, Turkey, to make normal relations with Armenia contingent on resolving the conflict. These chest-high hurdles make it all the

more remarkable that Turkish President Abdullah Gul and Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan apparently want to walk the road to reconciliation. They started a year ago, when Mr. Gul attended a Turkish-Armenian soccer match in Armenia -- an unprecedented and highly visible gesture. Mr. Sargsyan has been invited to a match in Turkey next week.

But years of quiet discussion among senior opinion makers and intellectuals on both sides preceded this public diplomacy. Armenians who want to break out of their landlocked and poor economy are looking for normal relations with Turkey.

Turks are being driven by business interests and the "zero problems" policy.

Ankara and Athens, for instance, have entered a period of detente, and relations between Turkey and Syria have greatly improved. Ankara is reaching out to Tehran. Turkey has played the role (unsuccessfully so far) as negotiator between Syria and Israel. In the back of Gul's mind must be the calculation that normal relations with Armenia could tighten Turkey's ties to Russia -- which has backed Armenia in the post-Soviet period.

If Gul and Sargsyan succeed, that might point the way to resolving other so-called "intractable" disputes in the Caucasus, and perhaps even the Turk-Greek problem over a divided Cyprus. True reconciliation may rejuvenate Turkey's stalled bid for membership in the European Union by showing that Ankara is a security problem solver. And it could increase prosperity in the region by opening more trade to Armenia and perhaps making it part of the region's energy network.

The provision for a commission to "impartially" examine historical records and archives may not bridge the passionate disagreement about the Armenian massacre. But it can create an atmosphere of more open discussion -- and that's needed in both countries. At the same time, international mediation continues on Nagorno-Karabakh. □

Aruba TODAY

Don't drink & DRIVE

New Michael Jackson single debuts online



FILE - This is a Thursday, March 5, 2009 file photo of US singer Michael Jackson as he announced that he is set to play ten live concerts at the London O2 Arena in July. Jackson returned to the airwaves Monday Oct. 12, 2009 with a new song the first from an upcoming musical documentary featuring the troubled superstar. It is the first new material by Jackson to be released since his sudden death in Los Angeles on June 25.

(AP Photo/Joel Ryan, File)

Danger lurks in Jonze adaptation of 'Wild Things'



In this film publicity image released by Warner Bros. Pictures, Max Records, portraying Max, is shown with the character Carol, voiced by James Gandolfini in 'Where the Wild Things Are.'

(AP Photo/Warner Bros. Pictures, Matt Nettheim)

By DAVID GERMAIN,
AP Movie Writer David

LOS ANGELES - Spike Jonze recalls how Maurice Sendak urged him to make the movie version of "Where the Wild Things Are" as dangerous as the book was when the

children's classic came out in 1963.

The question now is whether Jonze made it too dangerous. The film arrives in theaters Friday, a year later than originally planned by distributor Warner Bros. The

By GREGORY KATZ,

Associated Press Writer

LONDON - Michael Jackson returned to the airwaves Monday with a new song — the first from an upcoming musical documentary featuring the troubled superstar.

It is the first new material by Jackson to be released since his sudden death in Los Angeles on June 25.

Jackson sounded confident and almost playful on "This Is It," which features his trademark breathy vocal style, perfected over the years since he was a child sensation with the Jackson Five. He is backed by lush vocals from his brothers, giving the recording a nostalgic, familiar feel.

The mid-tempo song with orchestral backing is played during the closing sequences of the documentary of the same name, which opens worldwide Oct. 28 for a limited two-week run. It features rehearsal footage shot shortly before Jackson's death.

"This Is It," goes one verse on the new song. "Here I stand. The light of the world. I feel grand."

The song is available on Jackson's official Web site

and was being sent to radio stations. It will also be part of the two-disc CD set that will accompany the movie in a worldwide marketing blitz expected to capitalize on the surge of emotion that followed the singer's death.

The posthumous release of "This Is It" and the forthcoming album follows a long-standing pattern in the popular music world dating back to Elvis Presley's early death in 1977.

Presley's records have continued selling since that date, with new greatest hit compilations and live concert releases finding huge new audiences. His estate still receives tens of millions of dollars each year from CD sales and other enterprises, and in 2002 he even topped the UK charts with a remixed version of an older song.

The same was true, to a lesser extent, after the deaths of rock icons like Jimi Hendrix, Jim Morrison and Janis Joplin. A number of John Lennon solo albums were also released in the years following his shooting death in 1980.

Some artists have scored major hits after their deaths.

For example, "Time in a Bottle" was the No. 1 hit in early 1974, months after Jim Croce died. Otis Redding's biggest hit, "The Dock of the Bay," was released after his death in a plane crash in December 1967. "Me and Bobby McGee" made the charts in 1971, a year after Janis Joplin died.

Jackson, one of the most commercially successful artists of all time, is expected to sell millions of albums in the coming years. His death already brought some of his classic records back to the top of the charts.

The new Jackson documentary shows the singer rehearsing for his planned 2009 London concerts, which were to mark his return to the stage after a lengthy absence caused in part by legal and personal problems. At the time, Jackson was deeply in debt and his popularity was dimmed by repeated charges of child molestation.

Jackson's death at age 50 is still being investigated.

The Los Angeles County coroner has ruled Jackson's death was caused by acute intoxication by the anesthetic propofol, with other sedatives a contributing factor. The coroner found the powerful anesthetic was administered without any medical need and that recommended resuscitation equipment was missing. □

and occasional ferocity may prove more unsettling than endearing to viewers.

At a test screening of an early cut, some children found the wild things creepy and scary.

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On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Nobel Prizes 2009: A record year for women

By The Associated Press

This year a record five women were honored by the Nobel committees. In total, only 40 women have won the prestigious prizes, including Marie Curie who took the 1903 physics prize and the 1911 chemistry prize.

The 2009 winners include:

- Elinor Ostrom, 76, who made history by being the first woman to win the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, sharing it with fellow American Oliver Williamson for their work in economic governance.

- Elizabeth H. Blackburn, 60, and Carol W. Greider, 48, who shared the 2009 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine with Jack W. Szostak for their work in solving the mystery of how chromosomes protect themselves from degrading when cells divide. Greider is American and Blackburn has dual U.S.-Australian citizenship.

- Ada Yonath, 70, of Israel, who shared the Nobel Prize in chemistry with Americans Venkatraman Ramakrishnan and Thomas Steitz for their atom-by-atom description of ribosomes.

- Herta Mueller, 56, a Romanian-born German writer who won the literature prize for her critical depiction of life behind the Iron Curtain.

Other women who have won Nobel Prizes include literature winners Toni Morrison and Doris Lessing and peace prize laureates Aung San Suu Kyi, a democracy activist in Myanmar, and Iranian human rights lawyer Shirin Ebadi. □

American is first woman to win Nobel in economics

The Prize in Economic Sciences 2009



Elinor Ostrom
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN, USA



Oliver E. Williamson
University of California
Berkeley, CA, USA

A computer screen showing the pictures of Elinor Ostrom, Indiana University, Bloomington, and Oliver E. Williamson, University of California, Berkeley, at the Royal Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, Monday, Oct. 12, 2009. Ostrom and Williamson are the 2009 winners of the Nobel economics prize.

(AP Photo/Scanpix/Bertil Ericson)



Senate Finance Committee member Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine talks to reporters outside of the Senate Chamber on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009. Senate Majority Leader of Nev. announced Thursday that the Finance Committee will vote next week on the health care bill.

(AP Photo/Harry Hamburg)

Dems scramble after warning from health insurers

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR,

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Insurance companies aren't playing nice any more. Their dire message that health care legislation will drive up premiums for people who already have coverage comes as a warning shot at a crucial point in the debate, and threatens President Barack Obama's top domestic priority.

Continued on Page B4

By JEANNINE AVERSA,
KARL RITTER
MATT MOORE,
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — Elinor Ostrom became the first woman to win a Nobel Prize in economics, honored along with fellow American Oliver Williamson on Monday for analyzing economic governance — the rules by which people exercise authority in companies and economic systems.

Ostrom was also the fifth woman to win a Nobel award this year — a record for the prestigious honors.

Continued on Next Page

Security of Pakistan nuclear weapons questioned



Pakistani soldiers patrol outside the army headquarters in Rawalpindi on October 11. A suicide bomber flung himself at a military convoy passing through a busy market in northwest Pakistan, killing 41 people in the latest in a wave of deadly strikes, the military said.

(AFP/Aamir Qureshi)

By CHRIS BRUMMITT
PAMELA HESS,
Associated Press Writers

ISLAMABAD — An audacious weekend assault by Islamic militants on Pakistan's army headquarters is again raising fears of an insurgent attack on the country's nuclear weapons installation. Pakistan has sought to protect its nuclear weapons from attack by the Taliban or other militants by storing the warheads, detonators and missiles separately in facilities patrolled by elite troops.

Continued on Page B6



This undated photo made available Monday, Oct. 12, 2009 by Indiana University shows Elinor Ostrom. Ostrom and Oliver Williamson won the Nobel economics prize on Monday for their analyses of economic governance — the way authority is exercised in companies and economic systems.

(AP Photo/Indiana University, Jacob Kriese)

OSTROM

Continued from Page B1

It was also an exceptionally strong year for the United States, with 11 American citizens — some of them with dual nationality — among the 13 Nobel winners, including President Barack Obama, who won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday.

Ostrom, 76, and Williamson, 77, shared the 10 million kronor (\$1.4 million) economics prize for work that "advanced economic governance research from the fringe to the forefront of scientific attention," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said.

Ostrom, a political scientist at Indiana University, showed how common resources — forests, fisheries, oil fields or grazing lands — can be managed successfully by the people who use them, rather

than by governments or private companies.

"What we have ignored is what citizens can do and the importance of real involvement of the people involved — versus just having somebody in Washington ... make a rule," Ostrom said during a brief session with reporters in Bloomington.

Ostrom said it's an honor to be the first woman to win a Nobel Prize in economics — and promised that she won't be the last. She said people discouraged her from seeking a Ph.D. when she applied for graduate school but she loved studying economics.

Williamson, an economist at the University of California, Berkeley, focused on how firms and markets differ in the ways that they resolve conflicts. He found that companies are typically better able to resolve conflicts than

markets when competition is limited, the citation said.

The academy did not specifically cite the global financial crisis, but many of the problems at the heart of the current upheaval — bonuses, executive compensation, risky and poorly understood securities — involve a perceived lack of regulatory oversight by government officials or by corporate boards. The Nobel awards on Monday were clearly a nod to the role of rules, institutions and regulations in making markets work.

"There has been a huge discussion how the big banks, the big investment banks have acted badly, with bosses who have misused their power, misused their shareholders' confidence, and that is in line with (Williamson's) theories," prize committee member Per Krusell said.

Ostrom, also the founding director of Arizona State University's Center for the Study of Institutional Diversity, devoted her career to studying the interaction of people and natural resources. One notable publication she wrote in 1990 examined both successful and unsuccessful ways of governing natural resources — forests, fisheries, oil fields, grazing lands and irrigation systems — that are used by individuals.

Ostrom's work challenged conventional wisdom, showing that common resources can be successfully managed without privatization or government regulation.

To explain her ideas, the academy cited an example about dams in Nepal that Ostrom used in her 1990 book "Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action."

Local people had for many years successfully managed irrigation systems to allocate water between users, but then the government decided to build modern dams made of concrete and steel with the help of foreign donors.

"Despite flawless engineering, many of these projects have ended in failure," the academy said.

That was because the new, modern dams cut out communications and ties between the users. The new dams required little maintenance whereas the earthen local dams forced users to work together to keep them functional.

Ostrom told the academy by telephone that she was surprised by their choice.

"There are many, many people who have struggled mightily and to be chosen for this prize is a great honor," Ostrom said.

"I'm still a little bit in shock." Ostrom doesn't know exactly how she will spend her share of the \$1.4 million in award money, but she said she will invest it in her students and "wonderful" colleagues.

Williamson said he was "gratified" by the honor and hoped that in the future "organizations will play a more prominent role in the study of economic activity."

"The organization of the government itself is something which we ought to examine in a more self-conscious way — the Federal Reserve and the Treasury and the Securities Exchange Commission," Williamson said. "The mission that each of them has is mainly economic, but should be informed by good organizational practices."

Williamson previously was a consultant to the U.S. Federal Trade Commission from 1978-1980 and a special economic assistant to the Assistant Attorney General for Antitrust at the U.S. Department of Justice in 1966-1967.

He was cited for his studies on how organizations — including companies — are structured and how that affects the cost

of doing business. According to his theory, large private corporations exist primarily because they are efficient.

"Large corporations may, of course, abuse their power," the citation said. "They may for instance, participate in undesirable political lobbying and exhibit anticompetitive behavior."

But Williamson found it is better to regulate such behavior directly rather than with policies that restrict the size of corporations, the academy said.

Paul Krugman, a Princeton University scholar and a columnist for The New York Times, won the prize last year for his analysis of how economies of scale can affect international trade patterns.

The Nobel prizes, with the exception of the economics prize, were established by Alfred Nobel, the Swedish inventor of dynamite, in his will in 1895. The Economic Sciences prize, the last Nobel award to be announced this year, was created in 1968 by the Swedish central bank in memory of Nobel.

In addition to the prize money, Nobel winners will receive a gold medal and diploma from the Swedish king on Dec. 10, the anniversary of Nobel's death in 1896.

The choice of Obama, meanwhile, was the biggest surprise of this year's awards. In other awards, American scientists Elizabeth H. Blackburn, Carol W. Greider and Jack W. Szostak shared the Nobel Prize in medicine for discovering a key mechanism in the genetic operations of cells, an insight that has inspired new lines of research into cancer.

The physics prize was split between Charles K. Kao, who helped develop fiber-optic cable, and Americans Willard S. Boyle and George E. Smith who invented the "eye" in digital cameras.

Americans Venkatraman Ramakrishnan and Thomas Steitz and Ada Yonath of Israel shared the chemistry prize for their atom-by-atom description of ribosomes.

Romanian-born German writer Herta Mueller won the literature prize for her critical depiction of life behind the Iron Curtain. □



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FBI delves into DMV photos in search for fugitives

By MIKE BAKER,
Associated Press Writer

RALEIGH, N.C. — In its search for fugitives, the FBI has begun using facial-recognition technology on millions of motorists, comparing driver's license photos with pictures of convicts in a high-tech analysis of chin widths and nose sizes.

The project in North Carolina has already helped nab at least one suspect. Agents are eager to look for more criminals and possibly to expand the effort nationwide. But privacy advocates worry that the method allows authorities to track people who have done nothing wrong.

"Everybody's participating, essentially, in a virtual lineup by getting a driver's license," said Christopher Calabrese, an attorney who focuses on privacy issues at the American Civil Liberties Union. Earlier this year, investigators learned that a double-homicide suspect named Rodolfo Corrales had moved to North Carolina. The FBI took a 1991 booking photo from California and compared it with 30 million photos stored by the motor vehicle agency in Raleigh.

In seconds, the search returned dozens of drivers who resembled Corrales, and an FBI analyst reviewed a gallery of images before zeroing in on a man who called himself Jose Solis.

A week later, after corroborating Corrales' identity, agents arrested him in High Point, southwest of Greensboro, where they believe he had built a new life under the assumed name. Corrales is scheduled for a preliminary hearing in Los Angeles later this month.

"Running facial recognition is not very labor-intensive at all," analyst Michael Garcia said. "If I can probe a hundred fugitives and get one or two, that's a home run."

Facial-recognition software is

not entirely new, but the North Carolina project is the first major step for the FBI as it considers expanding use of the technology to find fugitives nationwide.

So-called biometric information that is unique to each person also includes fingerprints and DNA. More distant possibilities include iris patterns in the eye, voices, scent and even a person's gait.

FBI officials have organized a panel of authorities to study how best to increase use of the software. It will take at least a year to establish standards for license photos, and there's no timetable to roll out the program nationally.

Calabrese said Americans should be concerned about how their driver's licenses are being used.

Licenses "started as a permission to drive," he said. "Now you need them to open a bank account. You need them to be identified everywhere. And suddenly they're becoming the de facto law enforcement database."

State and federal laws allow driver's license agencies to release records for law enforcement, and local agencies have access to North Carolina's database, too. But the FBI is not authorized to collect and store the photos. That means the facial-recognition analysis must be done at the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles.

"Unless the person's a criminal, we would not have a need to have that information in the system," said Kim Del Greco, who oversees the FBI's biometrics division. "I think that would be a privacy concern. We're staying away from that."

Dan Roberts, assistant director of the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services Division, added: "We're not interested in housing a bunch of photos of people who have done absolutely nothing wrong."



Stephen Lamm, supervisor with the ID Fraud Unit of the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles looks through photos in the facial recognition system Thursday, Sept. 24, 2009 in Raleigh, N.C.

(AP Photo/Gerry Broome)

Gone are the days when states made drivers' licenses by snapping Polaroid photos and laminating them onto cards without recording copies.

Now states have quality photo machines and rules that prohibit drivers from smiling during the snapshot to improve the accuracy of computer comparisons.

North Carolina's lab scans an image and, within 10 seconds, compares the likeness with other photos based on an algorithm of factors such as the width of a chin or the structure of cheekbones. The search returns several hundred photos ranked by the similarities.

"We'll get some close hits, and we'll get some hits that are right on," said Stephen Lamm, who oversees the DMV lab.

The technology allowed the DMV to quickly highlight 28 different photos of one man who was apparently using many identities. It also identified one person who, as part of a sex change, came in with plucked eyebrows, long flowing hair and a new name — but the same radiant smile. The system is not always right. Investigators used one DMV photo of an Associated

Press reporter to search for a second DMV photo, but the system first returned dozens of other people, including a North Carolina terrorism suspect who had some similar

facial features.

The images from the reporter and terror suspect scored a likeness of 72 percent, below the mid-80s that officials consider a solid hit. □

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Official: Taliban better financed than al-Qaida



In this image taken on Oct. 4, 2009, Pakistan's new Taliban leader Hakimullah Mehsud, center, stands pose with his deputy Waliur Rehman, left, and spokesman Azam Tariq in Sararogha in Pakistani tribal area of South Waziristan along Afghanistan border. Pakistan blamed Taliban militants Tuesday for the deadly suicide bombing at the U.N. food agency's heavily fortified compound in the capital as authorities detained some of the guards posted outside to try to determine how the attacker gained entry.

(AP Photo/Ishtiaq Mahsud)

**By RICHARD LARDNER,
Associated Press Writer**
WASHINGTON — The Taliban are in much stronger financial shape than al-Qaida and rely on a wide range of

criminal activities to pay for attacks on U.S. and coalition forces in Afghanistan, a senior Treasury Department official said Monday.

David Cohen, the department's

assistant secretary for terrorist financing, said the extremist group extorts money from poppy farmers and heroin traffickers involved in Afghanistan's booming drug trade. The Taliban also demand protection payments from legitimate Afghan businesses, he said during a speech at a conference on money laundering enforcement.

Cohen's assessment came as President Barack Obama and his top advisers discuss whether many more troops may be needed in the 8-year-old Afghanistan conflict. A critical part of the deliberations is whether the fight should be a more narrow one against al-Qaida or a broader battle against the Taliban-led insurgency.

According to Cohen, al-Qaida is a cash-strapped organization that is losing its clout. That condition is the product, he

said, of a long-running effort by the U.S. and its allies to cut off the terror group's sources of funding by targeting its deep-pocketed donors and interfering with its ability to move money.

In the first half of 2009, he said, al-Qaida's leaders made four public appeals for money to bolster recruitment and training.

"We assess that al-Qaida is in its weakest financial condition in several years, and that, as a result, its influence is waning," Cohen said at the conference, sponsored by the American Bankers Association and the American Bar Association.

But Cohen cautioned that situation could reverse quickly because a pool of donors "who are ready, willing and able to contribute to al-Qaida" still exists.

The Taliban, meanwhile, appear to be heading in the

other direction despite an international effort to shut down the movement's cash supply. Drugs are a major money maker for the group. But Richard Holbrooke, the Obama administration's special envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, has said the Taliban get most of their cash from private benefactors in the Persian Gulf.

Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, said in his 66-page assessment of the war that the diversity of the Taliban's streams of cash makes it difficult to blunt their ability to operate.

Cohen said portions of the Taliban's illicit proceeds make their way out of the country and into the global financial system. But he did not specify how much or detail the money's suspected entry points. □



Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, right, talks with Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, during a Senate Finance Committee hearing on health care reform legislation on Capitol Hill on Thursday, October 1, 2009 in Washington.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

**DEMS
Continued from Page B1**
Democrats and their allies scrambled on Monday to knock down a new industry-funded study forecasting that Senate legislation, over time, will add thousands of dollars to the cost of a typical policy. "Distorted and flawed," said White House spokeswoman Linda Douglass. "Fundamentally dishonest," said AARP's senior policy strategist, John Rother. "A hatchet job," said a spokesman for Senate Finance Committee chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont. But the health insurance industry's top lobbyist in Washington stood her ground. In a call with reporters,

Karen Ignagni, president of America's Health Insurance Plans, pointedly refused to rule out attack ads on TV featuring the study, though she said she believed the industry's concerns could be amicably addressed.

At the heart of the industry's complaint is a decision by lawmakers to weaken the requirement that millions more Americans get coverage. Since the legislation would ban insurance companies from denying coverage on account of poor health, many people will wait to sign up until they get sick, the industry says. And that will drive up costs for everybody else.

Insurers are now raising

possibilities such as higher premiums for people who postpone getting coverage, or waiting periods for those who ignore a proposed government requirement to get insurance and later have a change of heart.

The drama threatened to overshadow Tuesday's scheduled vote by the Senate Finance Committee on a 10-year, \$829-billion plan that Baucus has touted as the sensible solution to America's problems of high medical costs and too many uninsured.

The Baucus bill is still expected to win Finance Committee approval. The insurance industry is trying to influence what happens beyond the vote, when legislation goes to the floor of the House and Senate, and, if passed, to a conference committee that would reconcile differences in the bills.

It's at that final stage where many expect the real deal will be cut. "We've got ourselves a real health care shooting war now," said Robert Laszewski, a former health insurance executive turned consultant. "The industry has come to the conclusion that the way things are going in Congress, we'll have a ... formula that will be disastrous for their business,

so they can't stand on the sidelines any longer."

Questions about the technical soundness of the industry analysis by the PricewaterhouseCoopers firm was a big part of the discussion Monday. The release of the study late Sunday on the eve of the federal Columbus Day holiday had Democrats crying foul.

"The misleading and harmful claims made by the profit-driven insurance companies are politicking for corporate gain at its worst," said Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va.

Democrats have reason to worry. Insurance industry opposition helped sink President Bill Clinton's health care plan in the 1990s by fanning fears that people with coverage would wind up paying more.

Ignagni was unequivocal in her support for the PricewaterhouseCoopers conclusions. The company is "a world-class firm" with "a stellar reputation," she said.

The study projects that the legislation would add \$1,700 a year to the cost of family coverage in 2013, when most of the major provisions of the Baucus bill would be in effect. Premiums for a single person would go up by \$600 more

than would be the case without the legislation, it estimated.

In 10 years' time, premiums would be \$4,000 higher for a family plan, and \$1,500 more for individual coverage.

Finance Committee aides to Baucus said it's impossible to predict premiums down to the dollar because there are too many variables involved.

The technical issues behind the study are complex, and it will take time for neutral experts to deliver a final judgment. The issue boils down to questions of coverage and cost shifting.

The industry is arguing that the consequences of the bill will be shifted onto those who are already covered. Insurers are not alone. Representatives of the hospital industry have raised similar concerns, though in less stark terms.

The study finds fault with what Baucus sees as one of the crowning achievements of his bill. Even with a tight budget, it would cover an estimated 94 percent of eligible Americans, up from about 83 percent now. The study — and the insurance industry — say that's not enough, particularly since senators have weakened the stiff fines Baucus originally proposed for ignoring a requirement to get coverage. □

Man held in 1968 hijacking faces NYC arraignment

By CRISTIAN SALAZAR,
Associated Press Writer

Cristian Salazar, Associated Press Writer — Mon Oct 12, 10:58 am ET NEW YORK — More than four decades after he hijacked a jetliner from Kennedy International to Cuba, Luis Armando Pena Soltren voluntarily returned to the same airport to surrender and face prosecution, authorities said Monday.

Pena Soltren, who was arrested Sunday after arriving on a flight from Havana, was expected to be arraigned Tuesday in Manhattan on a 1968 indictment. The Cuban government authorized his departure, authorities said Monday.

Pena Soltren, a U.S. citizen, and two accomplices used weapons hidden in a diaper bag to hijack the Pan Am flight on Nov. 24, 1968, authorities said.

"As the 1968 charges allege, he terrorized dozens of passengers when he and his cohorts wielded pistols and knives to hijack Pan American Flight 281," U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said in a statement Sunday.

Pena Soltren, 66, had arranged his return with the FBI and State Department because he wanted to see his wife and other family members, who lived in either Puerto Rico or Florida, an FBI spokesman told The New York Times. Authorities would not elaborate on other details of his surrender, including whether he had any relatives in the New York area. The FBI did not immediately return a telephone call Monday.

The FBI and federal prosecutors said in a joint statement Monday that it was made clear to Pena Soltren by U.S. authorities that he would be arrested and prosecuted when he returned to the United States.

They said the Cuban government authorized his departure from Cuba and was aware of his desire to return voluntarily.

Dozens of U.S. flights were hijacked and diverted to Cuba in the 1960s. Some of the flights were hijacked by self-described radical leftists, fugitives seeking asylum on the Caribbean island or criminals scheming to extort money from the U.S. government or the airlines.

Pan Am Flight 281 was commandeered by three men who forced their way into the cabin and ordered the crew to fly to the Cuban capital, according to a criminal complaint. Weapons and ammunition were sneaked onto the flight in the diaper bag, the court papers said.

Two of the men were arrested in the mid-1970s and pleaded guilty to their roles in the skyjacking, prosecutors said.

Another man, who was not on the flight but was described in the complaint as a leader of the Puerto Rican Movement for Liberation, was indicted in the hijacking. He was found not guilty on all charges. □



People walk through John F. Kennedy international airport. A US man who fled to Cuba 41 years ago after allegedly hijacking an airliner has voluntarily returned to New York to face justice. The fugitive, Luis Armando Pena Soltren, was taken into custody on arrival at JFK Airport.

(AFP/Getty Images/File/Chris Hondros)

Trial starts in slaying of 7 at Indianapolis home

By CHARLES WILSON,
Associated Press Writer

Charles Wilson, Associated Press Writer — 2 hrs 30 mins ago INDIANAPOLIS

— Investigators found no physical evidence linking a 31-year-old man to the 2006 slayings of seven family members in their home, but statements the man made before the attack and his actions afterward would prove he fired the fatal gunshots, a prosecutor said Monday.

Desmond Turner told others he planned to "hit a lick," — slang for commit a robbery — before the June 1, 2006, attack that left four adults and three children dead in their home, Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi said during his opening statements in Turner's murder trial.

Detectives did not find the gun used to kill Emma Valdez and her family members, and they found no DNA or fingerprint evidence linking Turner to the attack. But Brizzi told Judge Robert Altice that other evidence would prove without question that Turner pulled the trigger.

Turner, who sat silently in leg shackles throughout the proceedings, is charged with seven counts of murder and faces life in prison without the possibility of parole if convicted. Prosecutors agreed not to seek the death penalty in exchange for Turner waiving his right to a jury trial.

Defense attorney Lorinda Youngcourt said evidence would show the slayings were the result of a neighborhood feud that had nothing to do with Turner.

"The state of Indiana is prosecuting the wrong man," Youngcourt said.

The only real evidence the state would offer were the "gut-wrenching photographs" of the victims lying in pools of blood that Brizzi

showed the court earlier Monday, she said.

Brizzi said the scene in the home was "a brutal, ghoulish nightmare" and described how police officers who entered a back bedroom found "three children lined up in their bed, executed."

He outlined how witnesses led police to Turner, whose clothes were found soaking in a tub at a girlfriend's house the next day, and how Turner "compelled" friends to drive him to Kentucky after seeing his picture on television. Police found an unused bullet similar to those used in the killings at the girlfriend's house, though the murder weapon — an assault rifle — has not been found, Brizzi said.

Turner left the state because "he was scared," and said no blood was found on her client's clothes, Youngcourt said. Turner surrendered to authorities after his friends drove him back to Indianapolis after he fell asleep, according to court documents.

One eyewitness said she saw three to five black men flee the house instead of the two prosecutors claim, and that one relative of the slain family blamed the killings on another family in the neighborhood, Youngcourt said.

Prosecutors say Turner and a co-defendant invaded the home because they believed it contained a safe full of money and drugs. But Youngcourt said the theory doesn't add up, because hundreds of dollars and women's jewelry were left behind.

"You must look beyond the photos," Youngcourt told Judge Robert Altice. "You must acknowledge that the evidence doesn't exist."

Those killed were Valdez, her husband, their two adult children, two young children and a grandchild. □

Inmates say Okla. gov's mansion workers raped them

OKLAHOMA CITY — Prosecutors are investigating claims that the former chef and chief groundskeeper at the Oklahoma governor's mansion raped female prison inmates assigned to maintain the mansion grounds.

Neither man has been charged but both have been fired from their jobs.

State Department of Corrections officials say at least three women who were inmates at the Hillside Community Corrections Center in Oklahoma City contend they were sexually assaulted while working at the mansion between March 2008 and January 2009.

Janet Roloff, an attorney for one of the women, said Monday her client was held down by one man while the other raped her.

Roloff says her client did not report the alleged assault until she completed her sentence because she feared retribution. □

Pakistan says 41 killed in market bombing



Pakistani paramedics treat victims injured in a suicide bomb blast at a hospital in Peshawar following their arrival from Shangla district. A devastating suicide bomb hit northwest Pakistan killing 41 people, as the military geared up for an assault on Taliban rebels blamed for increasingly bloody and brazen attacks.

By RIAZ KHAN,
Associated Press Writer
PESHAWAR, Pakistan — A

(AFP/A Majeed)

suicide car bombing targeting
Pakistani troops killed 41
people Monday, the fourth

grisly militant attack in just over a week, as the Taliban pledged to mobilize fighters across the country for more strikes.

The Taliban also claimed responsibility for the 22-hour weekend attack on the nation's heavily fortified army headquarters, saying a cell from Pakistan's most populous province carried out the raid. The claim that a Punjabi faction of the Pakistani Taliban was behind that strike is a sign the insurgents have forged links with militants outside their main strongholds in Pashtun areas close to the Afghan border, increasing their potency.

The army, however, maintained it was launched from South Waziristan — where the military is preparing for what will likely be a long and bloody offensive against the major base of the Taliban along the frontier.

In advance of that offensive, the militants have launched a wave of attacks across the country.

In the latest strike, a suicide bomber detonated a car packed with explosives near an army vehicle in a market in the northwest Shangla district, provincial Information Minister Mian Iftikhar Hussain said. The attack killed 41, including six security officers, and wounded 45 other people, he said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

In a statement on the state-run news agency, President Asif Ali Zardari said the attacks would not undermine the government's resolve to eliminate the insurgent groups. "Such attacks cannot deter us from the offensive against the militants," Hussain said. "We will continue our fight till the death of the last terrorist."

Shangla lies east of Swat, which has been the focus of an intense military operation against the Taliban. The army says it has largely cleared the valley of the insurgents, but the bombing demonstrated their continuing ability to mount deadly attacks there.

Many Taliban are believed to have melted into the rural areas or gone to neighboring districts.

The recent string of bloody attacks began last week when a suicide bomber blew himself up inside a heavily guarded U.N. aid agency in the heart of the capital, Islamabad, killing five staffers. On Friday, a suspected militant detonated an explosives-laden car in the middle of a busy market in the northwestern city of Peshawar, killing 53 people.

Those attacks were followed by the raid on army headquarters in the city of Rawalpindi on Saturday that killed nine militants and 14 others. Military spokesman Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas said the militants were hoping to seize senior army officials and trade them for their jailed comrades.

"Their main focus was the release of their leaders," he said. The attack was launched from South Waziristan and the assailants were in contact with their handlers there during the assault, Abbas said. □

site and actually seizing and using the nuclear material stored inside.

Security at Pakistan's isolated nuclear installations is believed to be significantly higher than at the army headquarters, which was relatively relaxed by the standards of other nations. Thousands of people and vehicles enter the headquarters compound in Rawalpindi daily, and the 10 attackers, while able to take dozens of hostages Saturday and kill 14 people before a commando raid ended the siege, never penetrated to the heart of the complex.

Pakistan is estimated to have between 70 and 90 warheads, according to Hans Kristensen, director of the Nuclear Information Project of the Federation of American Scientists.

Shaun Gregory, an expert on Pakistani security at the University of Bradford in Britain, said militants have struck near an air base in Sargodha, where nuclear missiles are believed to be stored, and the Wah cantonment, where missiles that could carry nuclear weapons are believed to be assembled. He added that the attacks did not appear to have targeted nuclear weapons.

Pakistan uses armed forces personnel to guard nuclear weapons facilities, and it physically separates warhead cores from their detonation components, Gregory wrote in the July issue of The Sentinel, the monthly journal of the Combating Terrorism Center.

The components are stored in protected underground sites. The warheads themselves are electronically locked to ensure that

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R	FINAL DESTINATION 4	daily: matinee:		8:00	10:00 12:00
R	JENNIFER'S BODY	daily: matinee:	1:00	5:30 3:15	7:45 late show: 10:00
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PG-13	TYLER PERRY'S I CAN DO BAD ALL BY MYSELF	daily: matinee:		8:30	late show: 11:15
R	ZOMBIELAND	daily: matinee:	12:00	6:00 2:00	8:00 late show: 10:00
PG-13	G:I: JOE: THE RISE OF THE COBRA	daily: matinee:	12:30	6:00 3:30	late show:
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Netanyahu: No war crimes trials for Israelis

By JOSEF FEDERMAN,
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday vowed never to allow Israeli leaders or soldiers to stand trial on war crimes charges over their actions during last winter's military offensive in the Gaza Strip, furiously denouncing a U.N. report in a keynote address to parliament.

Netanyahu's fiery rhetoric — and his decision to open the high-profile speech with remarks on the report — reflected the deep distress felt among Israeli leaders after a U.N. commission accused Israel of intentionally harming civilians when it launched a massive attack in Gaza to stop years of rocket fire.

"This distorted report, written by this distorted committee, undermines Israel's right to defend itself. This report encourages terrorism and threatens peace," Netanyahu said in his address at the opening of parliament's winter session. "Israel will not take risks for peace if it can't defend itself."

The U.N. report, compiled by a team led by former war crimes prosecutor Richard Goldstone, accused both Israel and Hamas of war crimes and possible crimes against humanity. It specifically accused Israel of using disproportionate force, deliberately targeting civilians and destroying civilian infrastructure, and using people as human shields. It accused Hamas of deliberately targeting civilians and trying to spread terror through its rocket attacks.

Israeli officials across the board have condemned the report, saying their country had little choice but to take harsh action against militants who were terrorizing southern Israel. They also blame Hamas for civilian casualties, saying the Islamic militant group took cover in residential areas during the fighting. However, Goldstone's strong credentials as a respected South African jurist, his Jewish faith and past support for Israeli causes have made it hard for Israel to dismiss the claims.

Netanyahu angrily noted the

report's portrayal of Israeli leaders as war criminals. "The truth is exactly the opposite. Israel's leaders and its army are those who defended the citizens of Israel from war criminals," he said, before vowing to defend the country's wartime leaders.

"We will not allow Ehud Olmert, Tzipi Livni and Ehud Barak, who sent our sons to war, to arrive at the international court in the Hague," he said.

While Netanyahu has repeatedly lashed out at the U.N. report, Monday's comments appeared to be a direct response to a new Palestinian push for a vote on the report in the U.N.'s Human Rights Council. If the vote takes place, the matter could be referred to higher U.N. bodies that could theoretically push for war-crimes prosecution. Earlier this month, Abbas' government had agreed to delay the vote for six months. That decision, which came under heavy U.S. pressure, sparked sharp criticism and protests across Palestinian society, particularly from the rival Hamas government in the Gaza Strip.

U.N. spokeswoman Michele Montas said Monday that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon spoke with Abbas on Sunday about the matter and said he would support Abbas' proposal to reopen discussion of the Goldstone report at the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

In contrast to predecessors who have used parliamentary addresses to speak of bold visions of peace, Netanyahu spoke in far bleaker terms. He focused on past Jewish suffering and criticized the futility of previous peace efforts, blaming Arab adversaries for their failure.

"The right to a Jewish state and the right to self-defense are two of the existential rights of our people," he said. "These basic rights of the Jewish people have been under greatly increasing attack. ... Our prime mission is to stave off this attack."

President Barack Obama has been trying to persuade the Israelis and Palestinians to

restart peace talks, which broke down late last year. Even after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, he faces a daunting challenge in just getting the sides to talk, let alone in solving one of the world's longest lasting and most intractable conflicts. The Palestinians say they will not resume negotiations until Israel freezes all construction in Jewish settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem — areas they claim as parts of a future independent state.

Netanyahu says some settlement construction must continue to accommodate growth in the Jewish populations. He also says all of Jerusalem will remain in Israeli hands, although Israel's annexation of the eastern part of the city and its sensitive holy sites has never been internationally recognized. Netanyahu, for his part, has demanded the Palestinians recognize Israel as a Jewish state — a demand the



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks, during the opening of the winter session at the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, in Jerusalem, Monday, Oct. 12, 2009. Netanyahu on Monday vowed never to allow Israeli leaders or soldiers to stand trial for war crimes over their actions during last winter's military offensive in the Gaza Strip, furiously denouncing a recent U.N. report in a keynote address to parliament.

(AP Photo/Gali Tibbon, Pool)

Palestinians criticize as upping the ante from previous negotiations. The Palestinians say it would discriminate against Israel's Arab minority and deprive Palestinian refugees of their rights to lost properties in what is now Israel. "For 62 years, the

peace." □

Iraqis arrest former top aide in Saddam's regime

By Sahar Issa, McClatchy

BAGHDAD -- Iraqi security forces seized a top aide to the most wanted man in Iraq, capturing him Sunday in a helicopter raid in Diyala province, an Iraqi security official who participated in the raid said Monday.

Ayad Jalal Abdulwahab has been working closely with Izzat al Douri, the vice president under the regime of the late dictator Saddam Hussein, the security official said. Douri is still at large and is viewed by U.S. officials as Saddam's successor in the resistance movement. The Iraqi force that captured Abdulwahab turned him over to U.S. forces, which brought him to Baghdad, where he's undergoing interrogation, Iraqi officials said. Abdulwahab was in charge of operations in Salahuddin province, the capital of which is Tikrit, Saddam's hometown, said the Iraqi official, who requested anonymity because he isn't authorized to speak to reporters.

The U.S. Multi-National Corps-Iraq, which is responsible for tactical military operations, said Iraqi special constables, with U.S. advisers, arrested a suspected explosives specialist thought to be "a key provider" of explosives throughout Diyala province. The explosives were used in multiple attacks against Iraqi and U.S.-led international forces.

The U.S. military spokesman didn't identify the arrested person by name but said he was

suspected of having ties with networks in northern Iraq and having distributed explosive devices to terrorist cells.

Maj. Joe Scrocca of the joint operations center said the detainee had ties with the Jaysh Rijal al Tariq al Naqshabandi, a group that he said operates in northern Iraq. He gave no additional details about the group, which is little known in Iraq.

U.S. and Iraqi forces captured Abdulwahab in the town of Qara Tappa, 55 miles northeast of Baquba, the capital of Diyala province, by rappelling from helicopters onto a residence in the town, said the officer who took part in the raid. The soldiers didn't have to fire their weapons. The U.S. Multi-National Corps-Iraq said the operation was carried out by the Iraqi Emergency Response Battalion, which operates under direct orders from Baghdad. However, the security officer who participated in the raid said this was done to avoid involving the local security forces, which often are infiltrated by armed groups. Local government and security officials in Diyala and Salahuddin provinces said they had no information about the raid.

The Iraqi Interior Ministry confirmed the operation and said that the Baghdad-based Central Investigative Court had issued a warrant for Abdulwahab's arrest, based on intelligence indicating his involvement in terrorist operations. □

Four Sudan Islamists to hang for US diplomat murder



Four Islamists accused for the 2008 killing of a US diplomat and his Sudanese driver shout slogans after a court issued their sentence in Khartoum in June. A Sudanese court has sentenced the four men to death for a second time for the murder of a US diplomat and his driver in Khartoum last year.

(AFP/File/Ashraf Shazly)

KHARTOUM (AFP) – A Sudanese court sentenced four Islamists to death for a second time on Monday for the murder of a US diplomat and his driver in Khartoum last year.

The sentencing came after the mother of John Granville, who worked with the US Agency for International Development (USAID), and the wife of driver Abdel Rahman Abbas both demanded the men be executed.

Granville and Abbas were returning from a New Year's celebration in 2008 when the gunmen opened fire on their car, riddling them both with bullets.

"The murder of a person is as illegal from the point of view of shariah (Islamic law) as it is in Sudanese criminal law," the judge, Said Ahmed al-Badri, said when announcing the sentence.

The court had condemned the men to death in June for the New Year's Day murders of Granville and Abbas but the sentences were cancelled in August after Abbas's father forgave the men.

Under Islamic law, the victim's family has the right to forgive the murderer, ask for compensation or demand execution.

Granville's mother, Jane Granville, at the time had asked for the men's execution but her letter was rejected because it was not notarised. A new letter was submitted by her and read out by a court prosecutor on Sunday.

On Monday, Abbas's wife appeared before the court to demand the death penalty for the four convicts.

One of the defendants, Mohammed Osman Yusef, shouted after sentencing: "You

cannot kill a Muslim because he killed a Christian."

Dressed in a traditional white robe, the bearded Yusef, a former military officer, also accused the United States of killing Muslims in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Islamic law condemns murder, regardless of the nationality or religion (of the victim)," the judge said. Some Muslim scholars say a Muslim can be punished, but not executed, for killing a non-Muslim.

The judge added that according to Islamic law Granville was a "dhimmi" in Sudan, referring to the status of non-Muslims in an Islamic state that affords them protection and a waiver from army service, in return for a tax.

Sudanese law does not recognise non-Muslims in the country as dhimmis.

One of the four condemned men is the son of a leader of pacifist Islamist group Ansar al-Sunna, which is linked to Salafism -- a hardline form of Sunni Islam practised mainly in Saudi Arabia -- but is not involved in politics.

A group calling itself Ansar al-Tawhid had claimed the New Year's Day murder according to SITE, a US-based organisation which monitors Islamist websites.

It said the murder was in response to attempts to raise the banner of Christianity over Sudan, the largest country in Africa.

Federal Bureau of Investigation officers from the United States had helped to investigate the killings which sent shockwaves through the sizeable Western community in Khartoum, a city usually considered one of the safest in Africa. □



A tourist takes a dip into the sea in Cabo San Lucas, Baja California, Mexico, as a hurricane approaches in 2006. Tropical Storm Patricia formed in the Pacific and was churning toward Mexico's Baja Peninsula, the US National Hurricane Center (NHC) said Monday.

(AFP/File/Luis Acosta)

Tropical storm in Pacific strengthens off Mexico

MEXICO CITY – Tropical Storm Patricia was strengthening Monday as it inched closer to the tip of the Baja California Peninsula, prompting the government to issue a tropical storm watch for the resort-dotted southern part of the peninsula.

Forecasters at the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said that Patricia's center was located about 215 miles (345 kilometers) south of the southern tip of Baja California Monday afternoon.

Patricia was moving toward the north-northwest at about 8 mph (13 kph), and maximum sustained winds increased to 60 mph (95 kph) by Monday afternoon. Some strengthening was expected over the next 24 hours, and the storm be very near the peninsula by Tuesday afternoon, the center said.

Patricia became a named tropical storm late Sunday. Tropical storm force winds extended outward up to 115 miles (185 kilometers) from the center. The Mexican government issued a tropical storm watch — meaning tropical storm conditions are possible within the watch area — from La Paz to Santa Fe in Baja California Sur state. □

Leading Cuban dissidents cheer Obama's Nobel prize

HAVANA – Many of the 75 activists jailed in a 2003 Cuban government crackdown on political dissent are congratulating Barack Obama for winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

In a letter released Monday to international journalists, 29 of those imprisoned six years ago said Obama "has become a global symbol, especially for us who, under difficult conditions, are defending Cubans' right to democracy."

In another letter, 21 of their wives, mothers and other female relatives also cheered Obama.

Fifty-four dissidents remain imprisoned on allegations they conspired with the U.S. to topple Cuba's government. Those freed were granted medical parole or forced into exile in Spain. One was released after completing a six-year sentence. □

Report: North Korea fires 5 short-range missiles



US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, seen here on October 11. Clinton said Monday that the US goal of a nuclear-free Korean peninsula remains "unaffected" by the test-firing of five short-range missiles by North Korea.

(AFP/File/Peter Muhly)

By HYUNG-JIN KIM,

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea fired five short-range missiles off its east coast on Monday, news

reports said, even as South Korea proposed working-level talks with its communist neighbor.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency, citing an unidentified South Korean government official, said the North test-fired two short-range missiles on Monday morning and three others on Monday afternoon from mobile launch pads.

Yonhap said the missiles were surface-to-surface KN-02 rockets with a range of up to 75 miles (120 kilometers).

The reported launches were the first since the regime conducted a barrage of seven ballistic missile tests in early July, and come despite signs North Korea is reaching out to rival South Korea and the United States after months of heightened tensions over its missile and nuclear programs.

The South's conservative government has reciprocated by taking more steps to engage more with the North, but shows no signs of easing its pressure on the North to disarm.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in Belfast Monday that the American efforts to proceed with talks with North Korea on its nuclear ambitions will proceed despite the new tests.

"Our goal remains the same," she told reporters after a meeting with Northern Irish business leaders. "Our consultations with our partners and our allies continues unabated. It is unaffected by the behavior of North Korea."

Clinton was to fly later to Moscow to meet with Russian leaders on a variety of issues, including nuclear reduction concerns.

Yonhap said the North has issued a no-sail zone in areas off the country's east and west coasts Oct. 10-

20 — an apparent indication the country could carry out more missile tests.

YTN television network carried a similar report to Yonhap, saying the missiles were fired off from sites south of the country's Musudan-ri missile site on its northeast coast.

South Korea's Defense Ministry and the National Intelligence Service — the country's main spy agency — said they could not confirm the reports. Earlier Monday, South Korea proposed working-level officials of the two sides meet Wednesday discuss how to prevent floods in the Imjin River running through their heavily armed border. The South also proposed a separate meeting of Red Cross officials on Friday to discuss reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War.

However, Unification Ministry spokesman Chun Hae-sung said that Seoul had no plan to resume high-level dialogue with the North.

Ties between the divided Koreas had been soured after conservative South Korean President Lee Myung-bak took office early last year with a pledge to get tough with Pyongyang's communist government. Tension on the peninsula further heightened after the North conducted a long-range rocket test in April and a second nuclear test in May.

Pyongyang, however, has recently reached out to Seoul and Washington. The regime toned down its threatening rhetoric, released detained South Korean and American citizens and pledged to resume key stalled joint projects with South Korea.

The Korean War ended in a cease-fire, not a peace treaty, which means that the two Koreas are still technically at war. □

Britain's Brown to repay \$19,000 expense claims

By DAVID STRINGER,
Associated Press Writer

LONDON — In the latest blow to Gordon Brown's beleaguered leadership, the British prime minister is being forced to repay over 12,000 pounds (\$19,000) in disputed claims following an audit into how British lawmakers spent public money. Dozens of lawmakers received letters Monday from Thomas Legg — who Brown appointed to audit expense claims — asking them to repay the money or offer further explanations for why they claimed it. Legg was chosen to audit the spending rules in an effort to quell public outrage over lawmakers' greed for taxpayer funds.

Christopher Kelly, who chairs the government's Committee on Standards in Public Life, is due to present a set of new rules on expenses later this year.

Brown's office confirmed Monday that he will pay back some money claimed for a maid and for decorating, but said Legg had told Brown he had not broken any rules.

"Mr. Brown will pay in full," his office said.

Brown has urged all lawmakers to repay the excessive claims identified by Legg.

Details of legislators' claims, which were leaked to a newspaper earlier this year and later released publicly, revealed how scores of politicians made inappropriate demands or manipulated housing allowance rules.

Some used public funds to renovate homes that were later sold for substantial profits or bought items that included pornographic movies, horse manure and an ornamental duck house. Legg has proposed that lawmakers claim no more than 2,000 pounds (\$3,155)

per year for cleaning, or 1,000 pounds (\$1,580) for gardening. He has also suggested that lawmakers repay expenses that previously exceeded those limits — even though they had not broken any laws in making those claims.

Under those recommendations, Brown's expenses were 12,415 pounds (\$19,597) over the limit. The prime minister suggested that repaying the money was an important step. "We have got to clean up politics, we have got to consign the old discredited system to the dustbin of history, so this is part of the process," Brown told GMTV television.

About 175 legislators have already repaid about 300,000 pounds (\$475,000) since the details of their expense claims were made public. But some legislators have suggested they could refuse, or challenge the audit in Britain's courts.



British Prime Minister Gordon Brown greets United States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton at Chequers, the Prime Minister's official country residence, Sunday Oct 11, 2009. Mrs Clinton is undertaking a five-day tour of Europe and Russia which includes an address to the Northern Ireland assembly in Belfast on Monday.

(AP Photo/Oli Scarff, pool)

Former Home Secretary Jacqui Smith on Monday made a personal apology to the House of Commons over her excessive claims, after a report into her conduct — the first inquiry to be completed into an individual lawmaker's claim — found she had breached rules. Smith became the most high-profile casualty of the expenses scandal when she quit in June. Leaked documents exposed that she'd inadvertently included two pornographic movies ordered by her husband in an expenses claim. Dozens of lawmakers have already resigned in the scandal. One study suggested that up to 300 of parliament's 646 lawmakers could lose their jobs in the next election — although some of that could be attributed to the widely expected rout of Brown's ruling Labour Party by the opposition Conservatives. □

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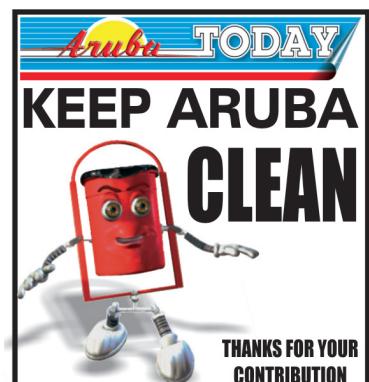
I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of Team Aruba for their tireless efforts in our quest together to raise awareness and money for Autism Speaks. For the third straight year, Team Aruba has been front and center at the Carolinas Walk Now for Autism and the best crowd pleaser next too the total money raised. Team Aruba not only attends the walks each year, but they proudly display the Autism Speaks Supporter Logo on their website, uniforms, car and trailer. They also raise awareness and request donations at each race.

The awareness does not stop there. Together we want to bring more services and information to the islands of Aruba and Curacao so that children there can benefit from the information we have here in the United States. Ven Eman has personally made it his quest to read up and research all he can to help us find the missing pieces for our son Kyle.

This journey began several years ago after a team member was given a business card I designed to create awareness of Autism and Fragile X Syndrome. Through our joint efforts, we have created a new supporter logo, walk team and raised over \$10,000 for Autism Speaks. The island of Aruba should be very proud of Ven Eman and Team Aruba. Words cannot express enough gratitude and love for all of you.

Sincerely,

Betsy Hudson.
Team Aruba Walk Chair
Carolinas Walk Now for
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www.autisticourchunkymonkey.blogspot.com
www.autismspeaks.org



Rodriguez and Posada power Yanks back to ALCS



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Alex Rodriguez finally delivered the playoff performance he needed and his talent demanded, powering the New York Yankees back to the AL championship series.

During this first-round sweep of the Twins, Rodriguez's performance was nothing like all those oh-fers of Octobers past.

Rodriguez and Jorge Posada hit seventh-inning home runs to spoil Carl Pavano's

opportunity to frustrate New Yorkers one more time, and the Yankees advanced to their first ALCS in five years with a 4-1 victory over Minnesota on Sunday night.

Rodriguez got off to a rocky start this year when he admitted in spring training to using steroids when he was with the Texas Rangers. Then he had hip surgery and missed the first month of the season as the Yankees stumbled out of the gate.

But baseball's highest-paid player returned with a more positive outlook, and New York surged to the top of the AL East.

Still, the third baseman entered this postseason in an 0-for-27 slide with runners on base dating to Game 4 of the 2004 ALCS.

"I knew that I couldn't change all the 0-for-4s, 0-for-5s and all the guys I left on base," said Rodriguez, who went 5 for 11 with two homers and six RBIs in these three games. "I'm content right now, both on and off the field."

Mariano Rivera got the last four outs in the final baseball game at the Metrodome, preserving Andy Pettitte's record-tying 15th career postseason win.

The Yankees will host the Los

Angeles Angels in Game 1 of the ALCS on Friday night after missing the playoffs altogether in 2008.

"It's exciting," Rodriguez said. "We were very disappointed last year when we went home, and ownership got us some good players. We came out and played like a team, like a group of brothers."

Teammate Derek Jeter offered plenty of praise.

"The most impressive thing? He hit home runs when we needed him to," Jeter said. "He's been doing it all year really. He's been seeing the ball well the whole year."

This pitching duel between former teammates Pettitte and Pavano ended with another first-round playoff victory in Minnesota for the Yankees, who also eliminated the Twins here in 2003 and 2004.

"I was trying to match zeros with him," Pettitte said.

For all their success this decade by being so good at the basics,

the Twins made glaring gaffes at the worst times. Doing that against the team that led the majors with 103 wins doomed them. "It seems like just yesterday that we were pouring champagne for winning the division, and now it's over," catcher Joe Mauer said. "It just burns that we're done. I'm still trying to figure that one out." The Yankees aren't about to let an opponent get away with overrunning the bases, as Carlos Gomez did in Game 2 to cost the Twins a run. Nick Punto then wasted his leadoff double in the eighth by failing to see that Denard Span's single didn't get past shortstop Jeter, and he was thrown out trying to retreat to third base.

Posada, who was upset when he

was benched for Jose Molina with A.J. Burnett on the mound on Friday, gave Rivera more room with an RBI single in a two-run ninth as the crowd began to file out of the Dome for the final time.

Pettitte, who retired 17 of the first 18 batters he faced, left Joba Chamberlain a 2-1 lead with one out in the seventh. He matched John Smoltz for postseason victories, getting his first such win for the Yankees since the 2003 World Series against Pavano's Florida Marlins, who won it all that year.

The Yankees haven't experienced that euphoria since 2000, with the Pettitte-Posada battery, closer Rivera and captain Jeter the only pieces left from that squad. □

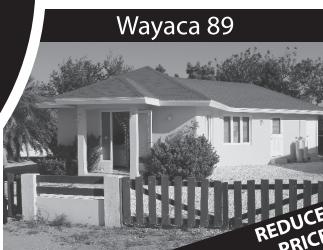


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Rafael Nadal and Andy Roddick

"The ATP season is too long"



SHANGHAI (AP)—Rafael Nadal and Andy Roddick complained Tuesday that the ATP season is too long and that tennis players need a proper offseason.

Both players, who are in China for the Shanghai Masters, reiterated criticism of the sport's punishing schedule.

"It's impossible to play 1st of January and finish 5th of December," said the 23-year-old Nadal, who did not defend his title at Wimbledon because of a knee injury. "It's impossible to be here playing like what I did the last five years, playing a lot of matches and being all the time 100

percent without problems."

Roddick, a veteran at 27, said players need a longer offseason to recover, and noted that both Roger Federer (fatigue) and Andy Murray (wrist injury) are skipping the Shanghai tournament.

"It's ridiculous to think that you have a professional sport

that doesn't have a legitimate offseason to rest, get healthy, and then train," Roddick said. "I just feel sooner or later that common sense has to prevail."

The top players on the men's tour are required to play at eight of the nine Master Series events—with Monte Carlo being the exception. And the top eight players of the year also have an extra week by qualifying for next month's season-ending tournament in London. Roddick said that merging the player's union and tournament operation under the ATP Umbrella, which was considered a cutting-edge concept that would benefit the players when instituted in 1990, hasn't turned out to be overwhelmingly positive.

"I certainly don't see any other sporting leagues or federations following our lead as far as not being individually represented," Roddick said. "I don't know that it's up to the players to be making business decisions about the schedule. At a certain point, I wish our input would be.

"It's got to be someone's job to figure that out, right?" □

Mickelson gets surprise visit from his wife

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—This was the 15th time Phil Mickelson has played in the Presidents Cup or the Ryder Cup, and the first time he came alone. His wife, Amy, is recovering from breast cancer and stayed home in San Diego.

Or so he thought.

Mickelson had no idea that when he returned to his hotel room Saturday night, his wife was hiding in the bathroom.

"It was an incredible surprise," Mickelson said. "I didn't think she was coming up, and she actually hid in the bathroom when I walked in the room. I didn't know she was there, and she scared me pretty good. It was an awesome surprise, though."

It was a treat for the rest of the team, too.

They had worn pink ribbons in their hats during the week to commemorate breast cancer awareness. Players and wives alike were surprised to find Mickelson and his wife at the team dinner Saturday night.

"It was pretty neat," Mickelson said. "It was pretty emotional. Just everyone seeing each other was pretty cool."

Amy Mickelson, who faces more tests over the next few weeks in Houston, did not make it out to Harding Park. Mickelson said she can only leave the room for a few hours at a time because of her medicine that takes energy out of her.

"Couple good hours each day," he said. His wife stayed behind in the hotel during the Sunday singles, when her husband won the final match on the course against Retief Goosen. □

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Cubs file for bankruptcy protection to speed up sale

NEW YORK (AP) -- The Chicago Cubs filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Monday, a step that will allow their owner to sell the baseball team in an \$845 million deal.

The filing in Wilmington, Del., was anticipated and is expected to lead to a brief stay in Chapter 11 for the Cubs. A hearing was scheduled for Tuesday in front of the judge who has been handling the bankruptcy of the Cubs' owner, Tribune Co.

The Cubs' filing is part of the Tribune Co.'s plans to sell the team, Wrigley Field and related properties to the family of billionaire Joe Ricketts, the founder of Omaha, Neb.-based TD Ameritrade.

Tribune, which also owns the Chicago Tribune and the Los Angeles Times, filed for bankruptcy protection in December, but the Cubs were not covered in the filing. The team's run through Chapter 11 could last mere days, enough to protect its new owners from potential claims by Tribune creditors, said Ira Herman, a bankruptcy attorney with Thompson & Knight.

Tribune bought the Cubs in 1981 for \$20.5 million from candy maker Wm. Wrigley Jr. Co. Tribune announced plans to sell the franchise in 2007, but got tripped up by the recession and the collapse of the credit markets.

It has agreed to sell the Ricketts family a 95 percent stake in a deal that tops the record \$660 million paid for the Boston Red Sox and its related properties in 2002. Tribune Co. is keeping the remaining 5 percent.

Major League Baseball's other owners have approved the sale.

The Cubs' bankruptcy filing is not the first in baseball. The Baltimore Orioles were sold in a bankruptcy auction in 1993 after owner Eli Jacobs filed for Chapter 11. The same happened to the Seattle Pilots after the 1969 season. The new owners moved the team to Milwaukee and changed the name to the Brewers.

The National Hockey League's Phoenix Coyotes, a franchise that has yet to make a profit since moving from Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 1996, filed for Chapter 11 protection in May. □

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2BR		GOLD		O.S.	\$ 22.000

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Sta. Cruz

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100

115

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11141

587-4300

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Evo Morales,

Asegura que el Día de la Hispanidad es el “día del luto”

La Paz - El presidente de Bolivia, Evo Morales, dijo ayer que el Día de la Hispanidad o Día de la Raza, como se conoce en algunos países americanos la conmemoración del 12 de octubre, es el “día del luto” porque hubo una “invasión” que trajo “hambre, miseria, enfermedades”.

En un discurso pronunciado en la localidad Villa Rivero de Cochabamba (centro), Morales hizo referencia a la efeméride al destacar los conocimientos que tenían los pueblos indígenas antes de la colonia española para construir canales y sistemas de riego para garantizar sus alimentos.

“Nuestros antepasados

estaban preparados para enfrentar cualquier situación de emergencia, especialmente de carácter alimenticio. La invasión nos trae hambre, miseria, enfermedades”, dijo Morales. También cuestionó que los maestros del área rural todavía celebren con actos cívicos escolares el Día de la Raza o se hable del “día del descubrimiento, cómo si hubiésemos estado perdidos”. “Acá habían familias que tenían su propia estructura, vivencia; Por tanto, compañeras y compañeros el 12 de octubre es para también repasar la Historia y para seguir proyectando”, apuntó. El presidente señaló que hace cuatro años, también un 12



Presidente de Bolivia Evo Morales.

Casos graves de gripe en México y Canadá se agravan rápidamente

CHICAGO (AP) - Las víctimas de los peores casos de gripe porcina en México y Canadá están sufriendo un empeoramiento vertiginoso desus complicaciones respiratorias y ello podría ser augurio de lo que le espera a los médicos estadounidenses en la venidera temporada de influenza invernal, según reportes publicados el lunes.

Los pacientes analizados empeoraron su estado rápidamente después de que fueran ingresados en hospitales. La mayoría sobrevivió después de un tratamiento intensivo de larga duración, aunque la tasa de mortandad entre los pacientes mexicanos analizados fue mucho más alta, de 41%.

Muchos de los pacientes graves en Canadá y México eran obesos, aunque sus niveles de mortandad no eran mayores que los de otros durante la primera ola del brote de gripe porcina de la pasada primavera boreal. En ambos países muchos enfermos eran más jóvenes que aquellos a los que generalmente afecta la influenza estacional, como se ha descubierto en Estados Unidos.

Los reportes fueron publicados en internet en la gaceta de la Asociación Médica Estadounidense, Journal of the American Medical Association.

En un estudio de seis hospitales mexicanos que se realizó entre marzo y junio, los casos más graves se desarrollaron rápidamente en 58 de casi 900 pacientes con gripe porcina confirmada o posible, una tasa menor al 7%, pero de estos pacientes graves, 24 murieron antes de dos meses, según el análisis dirigido por el doctor Guillermo Domínguez Cherit, del Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Médicas y Nutrición Salvador Zubirán, de la Ciudad de México.



Hayden Henshaw, de 18 años, se recupera de gripe porcina en su casa en Cibolo, Texas en una fotografía de archivo del 28 de abril del 2009. Estudios médicos recientes sobre los casos más graves de gripe porcina publicados el 12 de octubre del 2009 podrían ayudar a prevenir el peor panorama en la temporada de influenza regular. (Foto AP/Eric Gay)

Por su parte, un estudio canadiense dirigido por el doctor Anand Kumar del Centro de Ciencias de la Salud y el Hospital Saint Boniface en Winnipeg, revisó a 168 pacientes graves atendidos en 38 hospitales entre abril y agosto. En el reporte el índice de muerte fue de 17% en los 90 días que abarcó.

de octubre, prometió acabar con el analfabetismo, lo cual dijo haber cumplido, y ahora prometió que Bolivia tendrá un satélite propio en cinco años para permitir el desarrollo de las telecomunicaciones nacionales.

“Es el gran deseo que tenemos hoy día, 12 de octubre, un día de luto, que no es un día de festejo; pero desde esta fecha de luto lanzamos y proponemos

de manejar conjunta con los movimientos sociales, que se cumplan los sueños”, dijo el mandatario boliviano.

El Gobierno de China ha ofrecido a Morales colaboración para construir y poner en órbita de un satélite propio estatal y este mes debe llegar a La Paz una misión de ese país para avanzar en la creación de una agencia espacial boliviana. □

República Dominicana construye autopista a Punta Cana

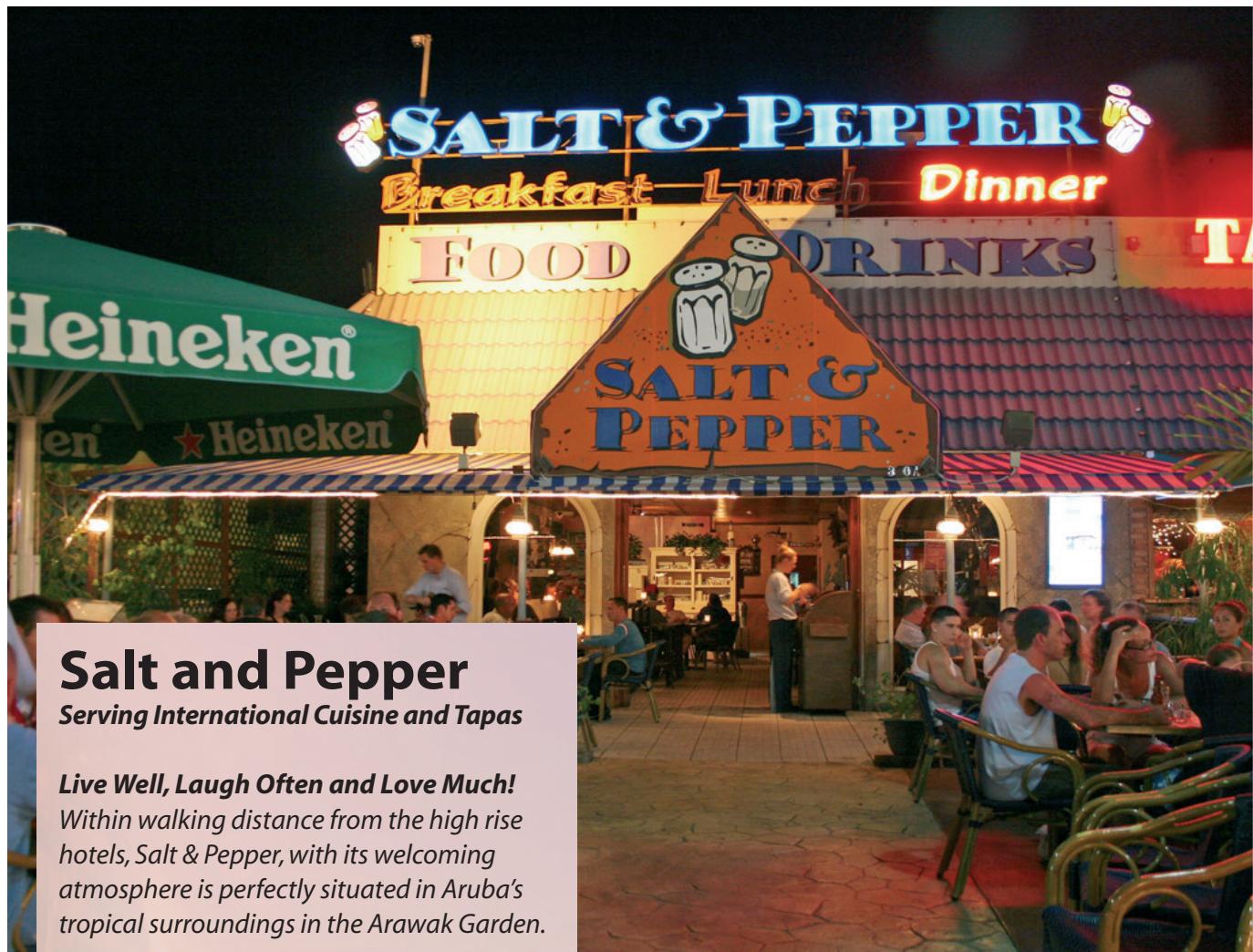
PUNTACANA, República Dominicana - República Dominicana comenzó la construcción de una autopista para reducir el tiempo de los viajes de Santo Domingo al popular centro turístico de Punta Cana, en un proyecto supervisado por una compañía brasileña.

La construcción de la carretera de 70 kilómetros (45 millas) costará 279 millones de dólares y unirá tres aeropuertos, dijo el presidente dominicano, Leonel Fernández.

La construcción de la carretera El Coral comenzó el viernes y se espera que dure tres años. La pista de cuatro carriles contará con tres puentes y dos casetas de peaje. Será 50 kilómetros más corta que la autopista actual.

La compañía brasileña Odebrecht está encargada de la supervisión del proyecto.

Fernández dijo que también liberó 10 millones de dólares para reanudar las obras en el bulevar de Punta Cana, que unirá a todos los hoteles en la región costera del este del país. □



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